

**SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2020**

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m. via Zoom due to COVID-19

Members in Attendance: K. Halpin, S. Marr, S. McDonald, D. Butler
Absent: G. Pohorely

Washington Borough resident, Jerry Brown also attended.

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting

The Washington Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting was called to order and the “Open Public Meetings Act” read into the Record. The meeting was duly advertised and posted on the Bulletin Board for Thursday, September 17, 2020. A Motion was made by D. Butler and seconded by S. Marr that the amended minutes be approved for the meeting of August 13, 2020.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Arbor Day Newsletter: September/October 2020 – This information will be filed for future reference.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Bartlett Ash Tree Treatment – Bartlett completed the Emerald Ash Borer treatment in the Green and White Ash trees located in the right-of-way areas. The company agreed to maintain the same price (per inch) in 2022 when the treatment will need to be reapplied.
2. Grand Avenue Streetscape – Borough Manager, Matt Hall sent a change order, subtracting the cost of the tree plantings. The Shade Tree Commissioners noted that 3 Maple trees and 3 Linden trees need to be lifted and replanted. Also, 3 Birch trees need to be evaluated on Grand Ave. The proposals will be submitted to the Borough Manager, Matt Hall and Borough Engineer, Kevin Smith.
3. Downtown Business Tree Maintenance – The DPW trimmed the trees along the downtown business district. The sidewalk areas are clear for pedestrians and all pertinent signage for the DOT has been cleared. The Commission will contact the DPW Supervisor for their prompt assistance with this issue.
4. 120 Belvidere Ave. – Sunshine Tree & Landscape trimmed a large Sweetgum Tree and cabled two main primary columns for extra support. The Purchase Order will be submitted for payment on the October 6th Bill List.
5. State Forestry Seedling Refund – The State Forestry Service refunded the \$40.00 that was paid on Purchase Order #20200154 for the seedlings that were ordered for Arbor Day. Orders were canceled due to COVID-19.

6. 40 Alvin Sloan – The owner removed a Maple tree in the Right-of-Way and replaced it with a smaller tree without notifying the Shade Tree Commission. A letter will be sent to the property owner with a copy of the Ordinance 76-7. The Commissioners agreed not to impose a penalty, since the original Maple was in decline.
7. CEU's approved in 2020 – The Commission needs to acquire 8 CEU's between at least 2 Commissioners annually. Four Commissioners will be registered to participate in the 95th Annual NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference. S. Marr also noted that some of the Commissioners also participated in the DIY Rain Gardens webinar on July 12, 2020. The number of CEU's has not been determined for that attendance.
8. Proposal for Tree Maintenance Work- The Commission reviewed the proposals for tree maintenance work. A Motion was made by S. Marr and seconded by S. McDonald to accept Sunshine's \$4,275.00 proposal for the removal of 2 trees and 8 tree stumps.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Remaining Budget – Any further maintenance work in 2020 will be prioritized for hazardous conditions.
2. 130 McDonald Street – Owner (Rita Katrensky) reported low branches hanging over the roadway on the Carlton Ave. side of their corner property. K. Halpin commented that the tree was trimmed recently but should be evaluated. The Maple tree was trimmed in the center and may have compromised its stability. This location will be added to the next maintenance list for a professional evaluation.
3. 38 North Pickle Ave.- Owner (Michael Dolobach) reported a fallen limb near the roadway. The DPW removed the debris. S. Marr visited the location and observed a split in the center of the Pear tree. The Commission agreed to have it evaluated when the next maintenance job is scheduled.
4. 38 Beethoven Ave. – Prospective owner is concerned about a declining Red Maple tree in the r.o.w. Sunshine Tree & Landscape evaluated the tree while working in town. It was determined that the Red Maple had large areas of decay at the base and they recommended it to be removed. The Commission agreed to have this location placed on the current maintenance list as a removal.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by D. Butler and seconded by S. McDonald that the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fleming