

**SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 9, 2020**

Meeting Called to Order: 7:05 p.m. via Zoom due to COVID-19

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

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 Monday, November 9, 2020. A Motion was made by G. Pohorely and seconded by S. Marr that the minutes be approved for the meeting of October 15, 2020.

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0,
Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Proposals for Tree Maintenance – The Commission reviewed the 2 proposals that were submitted and concluded not to select either one at this time for the Grand Ave. tree replanting. K. Halpin recommended reviewing a copy of future proposal requests in order to clarify the specific type of maintenance required. S. Marr commented that there was no guarantee that the ones planted too deep would survive being lifted and replanted. K. Halpin recommended that the damaged Beech trees should be replaced with new ones. The streetscape project is not completed and these issues will be relayed to the town engineer. A Motion was made by S. Marr and seconded by S. McDonald to contact the contractor to replace the damaged trees, since it was caused during the construction project.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
Motion Carried

A Motion was made by S. Marr and seconded by S. McDonald to hire Sunshine Tree & Landscape for the tree removal at 91 Railroad Avenue and trimming at 38 North Pickle Avenue and 130 McDonald Street.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
Motion Carried

2. 17 Lambert St. Soil Test Results – The Rutgers Extension soil test results were reviewed by J. Brown. The soil appeared to be safe without any contaminants. However, K. Halpin suggested J. Brown contact Rutgers to get a better understanding. The report was inconclusive to determine if the owners could replace their dead trees yet.
3. NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference –The annual conference was virtual

this year. Four Commissioners have participated which provide the 8 CEU's necessary for approval status. The 2020 Accreditation Status totaled 36 CEU's for the Shade Tree Commission.

4. 52 Alvin Sloan Avenue – Property owner, Kevin Racek had two trees removed in the r.o.w. without notifying the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Racek replaced the trees with A White Dogwood and a Crimson Maple. Both trees were planted in the right of way area of his property. The town tree inventory will be updated with this information.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Washington Borough Inventory List – G. Pohorely researched the number of available tree spaces within the Borough. This analysis confirmed a decline in street trees each year. There is a need for additional funds allocated to the Shade Tree Commission's budget or obtained through grants to ensure adequate replacement trees in the future. The Borough Council needs to be aware of this issue. There is a net loss of 7 trees per year due to hazardous conditions, storm damage, construction areas as the Carlton Avenue sidewalk replacement project and Grand Avenue streetscape. This topic will be relayed to the Borough Council when the annual budget requests are submitted.
2. 73 East Church Street – DPW reported a potentially hazardous tree after high winds from the previous day. The Norway Maple is located on the rear of the corner property and not in the r.o.w. Sunshine Tree & Landscape was working in Washington Township and provided a proposal for the removal. This was approved by the Borough Manager and was expended out of a DPW line item. There is no further action to be taken.
3. Remaining 2020 Budget – The total remaining funds for the Shade Tree Commission are \$1,710.74. K. Halpin suggested investing in tree diapers that can be placed under the grates in the downtown business district. They retain water and filter out salt when the streets and sidewalks are treated in the winter. This will be researched and reviewed at the December meeting.
4. Pocket Park Tree – A tree was vandalized in the pocket park. Two juveniles were seen causing the 1.5 foot long and 3" wide gash in the bark. A police report was filed by S. Marr. The Borough Manager recommended sending a replacement cost of the tree to the police department. The Borough intends to press charges and receive restitution.
5. Pine Tree – D. Butler suggested that the dead pine tree in front of the Fire Department and Emergency Squad should be removed. K. Halpin commented that the DPW may be able to remove the tree. She will contact the Borough Manager about this suggestion.
6. Additional Shade Tree Commissioners – There is an interest in expanding the Shade Tree Commission to more than 5 volunteers. It was suggested that the topic be presented to the Borough Council with specific names of the interested volunteers. K. Halpin will contact the Borough Manager before attending a Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by S. Marr and seconded by S. McDonald that the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted, Susan Fleming

