

**SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 11, 2021**

Meeting Called to Order: 7:18 p.m.

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

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, February 11, 2021. A Motion was made by S. Marr and seconded by S. McDonald that the amended minutes be approved for the meeting of January 14, 2021.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1
Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Tree City USA Bulletin: January/February 2021 - This will be filed for future reference.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 17 Lambert Street Soil Test Results – The Commission is not confident with the results from the soil test. If the homeowners choose to replace the dead trees, the Shade Tree Commission will not take maintenance responsibility for them. S. McDonald suggested that the owners should delay any planting until next year. This would enable any lingering contaminants to dissipate. No further action will be taken at this time.
2. Arbor Day Update – S. Marr is organizing the annual event scheduled for April 25th. The occasion will take place outside the Borough Hall main entrance and Mayor, Dave Higgins will read the Arbor Day Proclamation. The Shade Tree Commission will offer an assortment of free seedlings to anyone in attendance. The event will be advertised on the Borough Face Book page and the Washington Messenger.
3. Expanding Shade Tree Commission Members – K. Halpin commented that the Commission could have up to 7 members. A Borough Ordinance needs to be amended to allow additional members join the Shade Tree Commission. This process will be introduced at the March 16th council meeting.
4. Tree Diaper Purchase – The tree diapers have been delivered. This product is intended to keep the trees naturally watered and healthy with less maintenance. They will be utilized this Spring.

5. Maintenance Quotes for Grand Ave. & 4 Locations – The Commission reviewed proposals that were submitted. A Motion was made by S. Marr and seconded by S. McDonald to hire Sunshine Tree & Landscape to remove the trees at 118 Wayne St., 133 Sunrise Terrace and 26 Nunn Ave. leaving the stumps for a later time.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

6. 27 Belvidere Ave. Stump Hole – The DPW placed an orange barrel over the hole that resulted from the stump removal. This will need an alternative method to create a safer area in the Spring. The hole should be filled to avoid any hazard to pedestrians. This topic will be discussed at a future meeting.
7. Dead Pine Tree Near Emergency Squad Bldg. – K. Halpin commented that the emergency squad should be contacted before any removal plans are decided. Kathy will contact Charlie Van Duerson at the emergency squad to determine if the Pine tree was planted to commemorate a former member of the squad and any other pertinent information. This topic will be discussed at a later meeting.
8. 2020 Accomplishment Report – K. Halpin prepared the annual report, which was electronically submitted to the New Jersey Forest Service by the deadline. The Accomplishment Report was approved and updated on the 2020 Accreditation Status Report. The 2020 Tree City USA reapplication was also recently approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 26 Nunn Ave.- The large Ash tree was evaluated during the proposal requests. It was determined that there were areas of decay and should be removed. This location is included with the next maintenance job in town. The owner will be notified of this update.
2. 29 Alvin Sloan Ave. – A homeowner (Victor Cioni) reported a dead tree in the right-of-way. Mr. Cioni requested a replacement tree when it is removed. K. Halpin suggested that this location should be placed on the next maintenance job.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by S. McDonald and seconded by S. Marr that the meeting be adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fleming