

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 13, 2011

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: L. Starita, K. Halpin, L. Ferguson
Absent: P. Huizenga

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, June 13, 2011. A Motion was made by K. Halpin and seconded by L. Ferguson that the minutes be approved for the meeting of May 10, 2011.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Tamke Tree Experts provided literature on their services. The Commission agreed that it would be beneficial to have another service available for future quotes. The information was filed for future reference.
2. The Commission discussed Councilwoman, Jeanine Gleba's memo regarding a new sub-committee to review the Borough's Code Book for outdated information and ordinances. K. Halpin commented that the Shade Tree Commission's ordinances need to be updated this year and submitted to the Borough Council. It was suggested that a meeting should be solely dedicated for the purpose of revising the Shade Tree Ordinances. The Commission agreed to meet on July 11th to work on this project.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Maintenance of the Cool Cities Community Grant trees- A written request was prepared for the Borough Manager. This letter refers to the assistance of the DPW to mulch and remove the stakes from the (56) trees that were planted with the Cool Cities Community Grant. The original grant application states that the DPW would contribute to the maintenance of these trees.
2. Covanta Tree Donations- L. Starita will continue to pursue any information regarding tree donations offered by Covanta.
3. 30 West Stewart Street- Property Owner (John Maquire) requested that his r.o.w. Norway Maple be removed. Mr. Maquire recently had some trees trimmed along the side of his property and the service suggested that the Maple was unhealthy. K. Halpin contacted local tree expert, Jeremy Summitt to evaluate the Maple. The property owner will be notified after the results are brought to the Commission's attention.

4. Nelson Tree Service – The professional tree service affiliated with JCP&L has completed their trimming in Washington Borough. Their purpose was to trim street tree branches that interfered with any overhead electric wires. General Foreman, Charles Kitts commented that homeowners should call the toll free number on their electric bill for trimming branches that affect an electric wire which runs from the pole to the house. Nelson Tree Service will return to the area in approximately three years to continue this project. Mr. Kitts confirmed that his business did not remove any Borough trees during this process. However, at the Shade Tree Commission’s request they brought wood chips to the Borough Park for distribution.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Storm Damage- Damaging winds from a May 23rd storm resulted the need for immediate assistance from a professional tree service. Peterson & Sons Tree Service assisted at the following locations:

Belvidere Avenue	1 large tree removal , several trimmed
W. Stewart St.	1 removal, 2 pruned
Jackson Avenue	1 trim
McDonald St.	2 trims
Prosper Way	1 removal
E. Stewart St.	1 trim
Carlton Ave.	2 removals
Taylor St.	1 trim
Grand Ave.	1 trim

2. Storm Damage from May 26 - Second storm in the same week required immediate attention to a tree at 82 Grand Avenue. Sunshine Tree and Landscape removed a fallen lead on the house caused by the strong winds.
3. 56 Grand Ave. and 15 Grand Ave.- As a result of the recent storms, 15 Grand Avenue has a Bradford Pear that split. The tree is considered a potential hazard due to its unbalanced state. 56 Grand Avenue has a r.o.w. dead Maple that needs to be removed. The Commission agreed to send out quotes on removal of these two trees since they both are pose as a hazard to the community.
4. Shade Tree Commission 2011 Budget - The Commission’s 2011 Budget was finalized at \$ 13,500.00. The expense from the two recent storms will significantly reduce the Shade Tree’s budget by 50%. Aside from the annual costs for conferences, dues and publishing ads, the remaining funds will be reserved for tree maintenance.
5. Wood chips at the Borough Park - A citizen questioned the quality of the wood chips distributed at the Borough park. These chips were donated by Nelson Tree Service while they were trimming branches throughout the town for JCP&L. The Shade Tree Commission was requested to present a statement at the June 21st Council Meeting regarding this concern. L. Starita will attend the Council Meeting to answer any questions that may occur.

6. 89 Carlton Avenue – Homeowners (Steven & Patricia Delguercio) inquired about the stump that remained after Peterson & Sons removed their damaged tree on May 24th. K. Halpin suggested that the Commission receive quotes to grind the tree stumps from the May storm removals (with the exception of the large Beech Tree on Belvidere Avenue). The 15 and 56 Grand Avenue tree removals will also be added to the quote request. The tree service selected will be decided at the next Shade Tree Commission scheduled meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by L. Starita and seconded by L. Ferguson that the meeting be adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fleming