

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 14, 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, November 14, 2011. A Motion was made by L. Starita and seconded by L. Ferguson that the minutes be approved for the meeting of October 10, 2011.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Downtown Borough Trees- A Motion was made at the October 10th Shade Tree Meeting to accept the quote from Washington Nursery for the purchase and replacement of (2) Golden Rain trees in the downtown business area. However, the vendor required 50% deposit prior to the replacements. Since the Borough cannot provide payment before the completion of a service, the Commission was obligated to obtain additional quotes for the (2) trees.
2. Update the Shade Tree Commission Ordinances for the Borough Council- The Commission has completed the Shade Tree Ordinance revisions. A final copy will be submitted to Councilwoman, Jeanine Gleba.
3. Annual Conference for the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation – Commissioners, K. Halpin and L. Ferguson attended the October 22nd sessions in Cherry Hill, NJ. They earned (10) CEU credits which maintains the Commission’s Approved Status under the Community Forestry Assistance Act.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. David DeSanto- Mr. DeSanto attended the November 14th Meeting to convey his concerns regarding the Washington Cemetery expansion. This project involves the removal of acres of trees that would lead to soil erosion and other environmental issues. Even though the trees and shrubs are not under the Commission’s jurisdiction, the Shade Tree’s focus is to preserve and improve the environment of

Washington Borough. The expansion is primarily in Washington Township but a portion of the excavation would affect the Borough. Mr. DeSanto requested that a Commissioner attend the Board of Adjustment meeting on November 22, 2011. At this meeting, the developer is applying for additional variances to continue with the expansion. Mr. DeSanto is hopeful that the public will attend the meeting to voice their concerns regarding the repercussions of this construction. K. Halpin offered to write a letter of concern to the Board of Adjustment members and read it at their November meeting.

2. Storm Damage in October- A snow storm on October 27th resulted in numerous fallen and damaged trees throughout the Borough. Sunshine Tree and Landscape removed approximately (25) damaged r.o.w. trees, trimmed hazardous branches and chipped at several locations. The Sunshine Tree and Landscape crew worked for (3) days with the r.o.w. tree list that the Shade Tree Commission provided. Due to the extensive damage, Sunshine billed the Borough for a rate of \$2,500 per day rather than individual locations. The total charge for their services amounted to \$7,500.00.
3. 35 Presidential Drive- Owner (Gabby Kimmel) reported branches hanging from her r.o.w. tree as a result from the October storm. K. Halpin spoke to the owner stating that the tree would be added to the 2012 Maintenance List when the Commission has additional funds. No action will be taken at this time.
4. 73 West Warren Street- Homeowners (Guy & Roberta Hodecker) have 2 trees that have falling branches. It was unclear whether they were in the r.o.w. area. Mrs. Hodecker had been informed in the past that the town was responsible for their maintenance even though they do not appear on the town inventory. L. Starita recently measured the r.o.w. area and confirmed that they are not Borough trees. A letter was sent to the homeowners stating that they are responsible for any trimming or removal of the 2 trees.
5. 2011 Removal and Trim List- Prior to the October storm damage, Sunshine Tree and Landscape was scheduled to work on the 2011 maintenance list. They provided a quote to remove 8 trees and 7 stumps and 3 locations to trim. The Washington Borough CFO, Natasha Turchan approved the transfer of additional funds into the Shade Tree Commission's budgeted line item, since more than half of the allowance was spent on storm damage repair. This enabled the Commission to complete the trims and removals that were originally scheduled. The following addresses will be scheduled for maintenance:

200 West Warren St. - prune 4 trees
304-306 North Prospect St.- remove 3 trees & stumps
30 West Stewart St. - remove 1 tree & stump
21 Sunrise Terrace - remove 3 trees & stumps
244 West Warren St.- prune 1 tree
118 Wayne St.- Remove 1 tree

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 8:00 p.m.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fleming