

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 9, 2012

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

Members in Attendance: K. Halpin, G. Pohorely, S. Marr
Absent: L. Ferguson

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, April 9, 2012. A Motion was made by K. Halpin and seconded by G. Pohorely that the minutes be approved for the meetings of January 11, February 14 and March 12, 2012.

Ayes: 1, Abstain: 2
Motion Carried

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS:

The following appointments were made for the year 2012:

A Motion was made by Commissioner G. Pohorely, seconded by Commissioner S. Marr that Kathy Halpin be named Chairman.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

A Motion was made by Chairman K. Halpin, seconded by Commissioner G. Pohorely that Lauren Ferguson be named Secretary.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

2012 Shade Tree Meeting Schedule:

January 11, 2012
February 14, 2012
March 12, 2012
April 9, 2012
May 14, 2012
June 11, 2012
September 10, 2012
October 8, 2012
November 12, 2012

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Oath of Allegiance-The following new Commissioners took the Oath of Allegiance and signed these documents on behalf of the Shade Tree Commission:
 1. Gary Pohorely Term Expires: December 31, 2016
 2. Suzanne Marr Term Expires: December 31, 2016

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Election and Reappointments of the Shade Tree Commission members- The annual appointments are complete due to the additional two new Commissioners. The 2012 Shade Tree Meeting schedule can also be published in the Star Gazette. Meeting dates will be added to the Washington Borough website calendar.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. James Street- Homeowner (Thomas Domen) resides at 30 Fischer Avenue. Mr. Domen attended the April 9th meeting to discuss the options of a large, declining tree bordering his corner property. K. Halpin evaluated the location at an earlier time and confirmed that it was not in the r.o.w. area. Mr. Domen then commented that he was willing to remove the dead branches himself. The Commissioners advised him to use a professional tree service for his own safety, since the tree is large and decayed. Mr. Domen was provided with (3) tree services to get trimming estimates. It was also suggested for Mr. Domen to discuss his property survey with the Borough's Tax Assessor to determine if the tree is on an adjacent property. This was recommended prior to any maintenance done at Mr. Domen's expense.
2. 40 Grand Avenue- Homeowner (Clifford Evans) attended the April 9th meeting to request the removal of an Ash Tree bordering the side of his corner property. Mr. Evans stated that Peterson & Son planted the Ash Tree approximately 10 years ago for the town. The maturing Ash Tree is overshadowing the garden that is located in the back of Mr. Evans fenced property. There is a large Maple inside the fenced yard that also provides ample shade. G. Pohorely suggested that Mr. Evans utilize

the community garden in town. It was also recommended that the Evans' garden be moved to another location in the yard. After reviewing the property survey and pictures that Mr. Evans provided, the Commission unanimously agreed that the Ash Tree in the r.o.w. area should not be removed due to the fact that it is a healthy and viable tree. K. Halpin stated that if the property owners presented their concerns when the tree was planted, the Commission could have accommodated their request. A letter will be sent to the homeowners conveying this decision.

3. Arbor Day- The date to acknowledge Arbor Day this year will be April 23rd at the Memorial Elementary School. K. Halpin informed the Commission that BASF is planning to partner with the Shade Tree to acknowledge Earth Day. BASF will contribute towards a tree to be planted on the school grounds. Tomas Gonzalez recommended a White Oak as an appropriate species. Mr. Gonzalez was instrumental in the design of the Karen Nash butterfly garden that is located in front of Memorial School. A Motion was made by K. Halpin and seconded by S. Marr to purchase a White Oak for the Arbor Day celebration.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Quote requests will be sent out to local nurseries for the purchase and planting of a White Oak. The size should be between 2.5-3 inch caliper.

Other preparations include a written Proclamation to document April 23rd as Washington Borough's Acknowledgment of Arbor Day. This will be presented at the April 17th Council Meeting.

4. Tree Maintenance between Flower Avenue and Harding Drive- K. Halpin checked the area that was reported to have (2) damaged r.o.w. trees. There was nothing that appeared to be a potential hazard. No action will be taken at this time.
5. Commissioners assigned sections of Washington- The town map was divided into quadrants to distribute each Commissioner's responsibility, when questions arise throughout the year.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by K. Halpin and seconded by G. Pohorely that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fleming