

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 14, 2012

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

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

Absent:

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, 2012. A Motion was made by S. Marr and seconded by L. Ferguson that the minutes be approved for the meetings of October 10, 2012.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Quotes for removals at 244, 252 and 257 West Warren Street- Peterson & Sons Tree Service can do the trimming and tree and stump removals for \$2,400.00. A Motion was made by K. Halpin and seconded by S. Marr that the Commission use this vendor to do the necessary maintenance at these locations.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

2. Quercus Alba White Oak – G. Pohorely contacted Three Brothers Nursery regarding the replacement tree at Memorial School. The tree will be replaced with a Swamp Oak sometime at the end of 2012. The school will be notified prior to the planting.
3. NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference – K. Halpin and L. Ferguson received the necessary (8) C.E.U.’s to maintain Approved Status for our municipality. G. Pohorely and S. Marr received their CORE Training that is a requirement for future CEU credits.
4. 196 Broad Street Removal- The homeowner (Roger Provencal) requested that the stump stay intact after his Norway Maple was removed. This saved the Borough an additional \$150.00 this year.
5. 10-14 North Jackson Avenue R.O.W. Measurements-A concerned citizen reported that two trees at 10-14 North Jackson Avenue had dead branches that needed trimming. G.

Pohorely visited the location and measured the r.o.w. area on North Jackson Avenue. It was determined that the trees that needed trimming are not town trees. Since the location is a rental property, the Commission will send a letter to the landlord suggesting the need for maintenance on the trees.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 35 W. Stewart Street- Homeowner (Robert Sherlock) attended the meeting to discuss his concern about the declining Norway Maple on his property. He is relatively new to the community and was inquiring about the Shade Tree Commission's procedures. Mr. Sherlock's neighbor (Robert Horn) also sent a letter to the Commission, expressing the potential hazard. The letter included 8 photographs depicting the condition of the tree. After discussing the issue, the Commission agreed that removing the tree should be a priority. Mr. Sherlock was told that the only delay would be the limited funds remaining in the 2012 budget. In the meantime, it will take precedence on the existing maintenance list. A Motion was made by S. Marr and seconded by L. Ferguson to use any remaining funds to remove the hazardous tree at 35 West Stewart St. when receiving the required tree service quotes.

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0
Motion Carried

2. Railroad Avenue- Tree limbs obstructing the view of traffic when turning left onto Railroad Avenue from Park Avenue. This report was sent to the Borough via email from concerned homeowner (Gene Martel). G. Pohorely visited the area and agreed that the limbs from a tree located on Block 80 Lot 12 impede the view of traffic. Since the tree is not in the r.o.w. area, it was suggested that the Code Enforcement Officer notify the property owners to rectify this issue.
3. 53 West Church Street- Owner (Deborah Nestman) reported a storm damaged tree in front of her rental property. K. Halpin confirmed that the tree was not in the r.o.w. location and stated that the Borough Manager will contact Ms. Nestman regarding her responsibility to maintain the tree. There was no indication that the tree presented an immediate hazard to the public. No further action was needed.
4. Cleveland Street- Homeowner (Maureen Hammond) reported a large limb hanging from a Maple Tree on the street behind her yard. Ms. Hammond's property on Belvidere Avenue is adjacent to Cleveland Street. K. Halpin visited the location and suggested that the DPW remove the limb that obstructs parking on Cleveland Street. The road department can resolve this specific issue without hiring a professional tree service.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fleming