

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2013

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, May 13, 2013. A Motion was made by G. Pohorely and seconded by S. Marr that the minutes be approved for the meeting of April 8, 2013.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Green Communities Grant - The grant agreement was countersigned by Rich Boornazian from the State and returned to the Shade Tree Commission. This allows the Commission to proceed with the development of the Community Forestry Management Plan. The first step is to arrange a meeting with Paul Cowie, the consultant who will update the CFMP.
2. Arbor Day Acknowledgment- Arbor Day was celebrated on April 29th at the Taylor Street Elementary School. Shade Tree Commissioner, S. Marr organized the event and Mayor, Scott McDonald was in attendance to read the Arbor Day Proclamation and “The Giving Tree”. The program also consisted of songs, the history of Arbor Day, questions and answers about the importance of trees and the distribution of Douglas Fir seedlings.
3. Oak Tree Replacement- Three Brothers Nursery replaced the Oak Tree that was planted last Spring at Memorial School with a Swamp Oak. The Shade Tree was charged for the labor only when the dead oak was replaced. K. Halpin noted that burlap and rope remained around the root ball after the tree was planted. There are also branches missing from one side of the new tree. G. Pohorely will contact Three Brothers Nursery about the tree’s condition and ways to resolve the issue.
4. Recreation Commission Tree Donations- Recreation Chairman, Victor Cioni received a variety of 75 trees seedlings about 18” in height. They are intended for future plantings in the park as needed. In the meantime, they were planted behind the Borough’s sewer plant facility which is fenced. Veolia’s Project Manager, Kevin Shoudt was instrumental in preparing the ground for planting and volunteered to water them regularly.

5. 36 Grand Avenue – Homeowner (Daniel Aron) requested to have a Maple Tree removed from the side of his corner property. K. Halpin visited the location after the foliage was out and confirmed that the tree is declining and should be removed. A letter will be sent to the homeowners stating that it will be added to the 2013 Maintenance List.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. CSIP Grant- The Community Stewardship Incentive Program Grant is available in 2013. L. Ferguson printed the application and prepared the tree maintenance proposal as the project's purpose.
2. 123 North Prospect Street- The homeowners (Brian & Lisette Slean) had a professional service remove 3 trees near the street of their corner property. K. Halpin is contacting the tree service to inform them that the owner needs to confirm with the Shade Tree Commission before removing trees that may be in the r.o.w. area.
3. 252 West Warren Street - The homeowners had a r.o.w. tree and stump removal in 2012. They inquired about additional work on the stump removal since the roots are still remaining and they intend to widen their driveway. The Commissioners were unanimous with their response. The usual process was done when Peterson & Son removed the tree and then grinded the stump to ground level. No further action will be taken.
4. 77 Grand Avenue- Homeowner (William Chapleau) reported a r.o.w. tree damaging the sidewalk and curb. Mr. Chapleau was also concerned about the stability of the tree and offered to replace it at his own expense. K. Halpin asked tree expert, Jeremy Summitt to evaluate the tree. Mr. Summitt determined that the tree is healthy and should not be removed. These results were relayed to the homeowner and reassured that he would not be responsible for the curb damage but only the repairs to his sidewalk. No further action will be taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by G. Pohorely and seconded by S. Marr that the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fleming