

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2014

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

Members in Attendance: K. Halpin, G. Pohorely, S. Marr
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, January 13, 2014. A Motion was made by G. Pohorely and seconded by S. Marr that the minutes be approved for the meeting of November 4, 2013.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS:

The following appointments were made for the year 2014:

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

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

A Motion was made by Commissioner K. Halpin, and seconded by Commissioner G. Pohorely that Suzanne Marr be named Secretary.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2014:

Kathy Halpin, Chairman
Suzanne Marr, Secretary

2014 SHADE TREE MEETING SCHEDULE:

January 13, 2014
February 10, 2014
March 10, 2014
April 7, 2014
May 12, 2014
June 9, 2014
September 8, 2014
October 6, 2014
November 10, 2014

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Tree City Recertification Application – S. Marr completed the annual application by the December 31, 2013 deadline. New Jersey Forester, Alec McCartney had a few questions regarding the application. S. Marr will address Mr. McCartney's concerns and report any issues at the February Shade Tree Meeting.
2. 2013 Maintenance List- The Commission spent the \$13,500.00 budget allowance with the exception of \$55.66. The Commission was able to remove (11) hazardous trees and (13) stumps from previous storm damage. There were also 3 streets that had r.o.w. trees elevated.
3. 12 Oak Ridge Road Tree Removal – The homeowner had a healthy Honey Locust tree removed from the r.o.w. without the Shade Tree Commission's consent. K. Halpin will consult the Borough Manager since this action violates the Shade Tree Commission Ordinance #76-7. The repercussions from the tree removal will be discussed at the February Shade Tree Meeting.
4. Project Learning Tree- S. Marr requested to attend a (1) day workshop for enhancing the annual Arbor Day Acknowledgement at the elementary schools. A Motion was made by G. Pohorely and seconded by K. Halpin to send S. Marr to the training session in Chatham, NJ for a registration fee of \$20.00.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Temporary Budget for 2014- The Shade Tree Commission received \$4,073.58 in their temporary budget for the first half of the year expenses.
2. 2013 Annual Accomplishment Report- K. Halpin will prepare the annual report and submit it to the State by the February 15th deadline.

3. Shade Tree Commission Vacancy- There are (2) vacancies on the Shade Tree Commission. There will be a notice posted on the Washington Borough's website regarding a need for any residents that are interested in joining the Commission.
4. Seedlings for Arbor Day- The seedlings will be ordered early this year to avoid any cancellation. They will be given to the kindergarten students at Taylor Street School. A Motion was made by K. Halpin and seconded by G. Pohorely to purchase the seedlings at a minimal cost of \$25.00 for (1) tray of 98 tube-seedlings.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

5. 136 Sunrise Terrace – Homeowner (Ken Dreher) attended the January meeting. Mr. Dreher requests the removal of a Norway Maple in the right-of-way area. The roots have grown into the sewer line, causing sewage to back up into Mr. Dreher's home. K. Halpin noted that the roots did not necessarily cause the damaged sewer line. The root system probably gravitated to the preexisting leak as a source for water. The Commission explained to Mr. Dreher that there were not enough funds available to remove the tree at the present time. The homeowner was willing to remove the tree on his own. K. Halpin pointed out that if the tree cannot be removed by a professional tree service at Mr. Dreher's expense, he will have to wait until the Commission can have it removed professionally. The homeowner agreed to wait for the Shade Tree Commission to have the tree safely removed this year. This location was put on the 2014 Maintenance List.

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