



Delanco Shade Tree Commission

*Minutes of Regular Meeting
March 25, 2009*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order Mr. Matulewicz at 7:15 P.M, as Chairman Schmitt was delayed, and Vice Chairman Taraschi was on vacation.

Flag Salute

The flag salute was conducted by all members.

Sunshine Statement

The Sunshine Statement was read aloud by Mr. Matulewicz.

Roll Call

Members present at this meeting were: Chairman Schmitt, Mr. Matulewicz, Mr. Lacina, Mr. Atkinson, Mrs. Towell and Township Liaison Mrs. Hinkle.

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of February 25, 2009.

A motion to approve the minutes from the Regular meeting of February 25, 2009 was made by Mr. Lacina, and seconded by Mr. Atkinson.

The motion carried unanimously, with no abstentions.

Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

Old Work

Cesaretti - 301 Willow Street - Mr. Taraschi

The homeowner requests removal of a dying tree to the left of his residence. This case was assigned to Mr. Taraschi. Mr. Taraschi inspected this tree and reported that while the tree did seem to be in distress, it exhibited new growth in various places. After a review of his pictures, the membership decided to place this tree on hold until it leafs out in the spring.

Varga – 739 Chestnut Street – Mr. Matulewicz & Mr. Atkinson

Homeowner request trimming of two trees in front of the residence. The request also reports sidewalk heave, and that the tree between the residence and 7-11 appears to be dying.

Mr. Matulewicz inspected these trees and found the 2 Norway Maples to be stunted, and the large Sweet Gum with crown decline. He asked Mrs. Towell to send the homeowner a postcard to let the homeowner know he would visit with him. The homeowner was not available when Mr. Matulewicz visited. This item will be tabled until the April meeting.

Brown – 700 Franklin Street – Mr. Matulewicz & Mr. Atkinson

The homeowner requests removal of this tree due to sidewalk heave and would like to have a new tree planted in its place.

Mr. Atkinson spoke with the homeowner. He told them that the tree appeared to be healthy, and that the street may be undergoing reconstruction in the near future. Mr. Atkinson said that the sidewalk heave was minimal.

Mr. Matulewicz also inspected this tree and agrees with Mr. Atkinson's assessment, i.e., the tree appears healthy, and has only minimal sidewalk heave. Both members recommend denying removal of this tree. Mr. Matulewicz also noted the tree adjacent to the one under discussion on Franklin Street is a Linden with shallow forks and while it appears healthy, it should be considered for removal in conjunction with a streetscape plan.

By acclimation, The Commission decided to deny removal.

There was brief discussion regarding street renovations. Mrs. Hinkle said that the Poplar Street project would not be considered until July.

Newman – 216 West Ave. – Chairman Schmitt & Mr. Atkinson

Homeowner requests removal of this tree due to sidewalk heave. (Mrs. Towell spoke with this homeowner in the fall of 08 after removal was denied, and suggested sidewalk diversion.)

Mr. Atkinson inspected this 40-50 foot maple. He reports that the tree appears to be healthy with a wide crown and significant buds, and little or no deadwood. He did observe a few fresh gashes and speculated as to whether it had been damaged by a vehicle. He stated that there was no sign of sap dripping. He also observed some sidewalk damage with one square cracked in a few places. He recommends denying removal of this tree. Mrs. Towell will send a diversion brochure with notification.

Mc Mullen – 301 West Ave. – Chairman Schmitt & Mr. Atkinson

The homeowner requests removal of this tree. The report reads that this Maple was 'butchered' by tree trimmers and is dying. The homeowner also requests replacement of this tree.

Mr. Atkinson met with the homeowner regarding this specimen. He reports this 25 to 30 foot ash tree appears to have been 'topped'. He reports a lot of dead wood at the crown and no sidewalk or curb heave. He also reports limited budding. After a brief discussion, the Commission decided to review this case after leaf out. Mrs. Towell will send the homeowner a postcard.

NEW WORK

No new work was received.

Open Forum

The Community Forestry Management Plan.

Chairman Schmitt introduced an Excel spreadsheet regarding appropriate species of trees for planting. The items on the list were selected in accordance with space considerations, and overhead obstacles.

There was a discussion regarding tree plantings.

Arbor Day

Mrs. Hinkle reported that the past Mayors are enthusiastic with regard to the West Avenue project and plan to attend our meeting in April. Mr. Matulewicz said that this matter will be brought before the JULB at the next meeting. Mrs. Hinkle suggests using mulch based landscaping plan to keep maintenance at a minimum. She suggested using a dogwood as the center of the design with crepe Myrtle or azaleas surrounding it. Mr. Matulewicz suggested large trees as the space is able to accommodate them easily. Mrs. Hinkle reports that the Mayors would like to refurbish the first islands on either side of Burlington Avenue in the first phase. Mr. Matulewicz suggested a meeting with Mr. Taylor prior to Arbor Day. Mrs. Hinkle said that they Mayors will donate the tree and seek to defray the cost of the project through contributions.

Groundbreaking is set for Saturday April 25, at 11 AM. Mrs. Hinkle will get tree prices, Mrs. Towell will handle publicity.

Chairman Schmitt and Mr. Atkinson will collaborate on an Arbor Day flyer to send home with school children.

Commission 'Social' (Possible date, June 7th) This item was tabled until April.

Budget

Mrs. Hinkle reports the next budget meeting will be held on April 13.

Tree City Ceremony

Mr. Lacina, Mrs. Hinkle, Mayor Fitzpatrick, and Mr. Atkinson will attend the Tree City award ceremony on April 24, in Tewksbury. Mr. Lacina will send Mrs. Towell a picture for publicity. Mrs. Hinkle will ask Mr. Fenimore if he would like to attend.

Commission members were asked to send Mrs. Towell emails with topics for the monthly agenda.

Tree Planting Requests.

Mrs. Towell reports that she has tree planting requests dating back to 2006. After a brief discussion, this matter was tabled due to the uncertainty regarding the budget.

NJ Legislative Bill S-2503 and A-2872.

Chairman Schmitt will review this item.

Mrs. Hinkle requested a replacement for herself at the Tree Inventory Class on April 6, as she has another commitment. Mr. Lacina will attend in her place. Mr. Matulewicz said he may be able to attend as well, depending on his work schedule.

Correspondence

The approved minutes from the Meeting of January 28, 2009 and a copy of an updated tree list was sent to Mrs. DiSibio.

Postcards were sent to Mr. Yaskowski, Mrs. Megee, Mrs. Gauntt, and Mr. Varga advising them of the Commission's decisions in their cases.

An updated tree list was sent to Mr. Fenimore.

A purchase order for \$120 and an Active Membership Roster Report were sent to the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation for the Commission's annual State membership dues.

Mrs. Towell reported the Commission's records for 2006, 2007, and 2008 have been delivered to the Township in order to be archived.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Matulewicz, and seconded by Mr. Lacina.

The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Meeting minutes prepared by:



(Electronic signature)

Barbara Towell, Secretary

Delanco Shade Tree Commission