



Delanco Shade Tree Commission

***Minutes of Regular Meeting
May 27, 2009***

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Schmitt at 7:11 P.M.

Flag Salute

The flag salute was conducted by all members.

Sunshine Statement

The Sunshine Statement was read aloud by Chairman Schmitt.

Roll Call

Members present at this meeting were: Chairman Schmitt, Vice Chairman Taraschi, Mr. Matulewicz, Mr. Lacina, Mr. Atkinson, and Mrs. Towell.

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of April 22, 2009.

A motion to approve the minutes from the Regular meeting of April 22, 2009 was made by Mrs. Towell, and seconded by Mr. Matulewicz. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Public Forum

No members of the public were present at this meeting.

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. This item was tabled until the May meeting.

Vice Chair Taraschi re-inspected this tree and reports the specimen is not thriving. He reports fresh mulch and damage to roots. He observed stunted sparse growth and is of the opinion that the tree will not fully develop. Mr. Matulewicz also inspected this tree and reports it to be in distress. Vice Chairman Taraschi recommends sending a letter to the homeowner including a brochure on mulch procedures, and placing this tree on a monitor list.

Mrs. Towell will send a letter to the homeowner with a brochure to state that the Commission feels the decline of this tree is, in part, due to the way it is mulched, and that we will continue to monitor the tree. This item will be kept on the agenda in Open Forum or a separate category.

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. This item was tabled until May.

Mr. Atkinson re-inspected this tree on 05/27/09 and reports it to be more than 50% dead, with the decline most noticeable at the crown. He reports sparse lower leaf out, and sidewalk hazard. He recommends removal on a high priority basis. By consensus, the Commission agreed to send this specimen to Public Works for removal, with a notation of wire involvement.

Bell - 415 Buttonwood - Mr. Matulewicz

The homeowner reports this tree is rotting at the base, and its condition has steadily declined. The homeowner reports sparse growth and is concerned with the tree falling. Mr. Matulewicz will check this tree.

Mr. Matulewicz and Vice Chairman Taraschi inspected this tree, and are in agreement that the damage to the base of the tree was most likely caused by the Homeowner's contractor while the sidewalk was being replaced. Both agree that the crown appears to be healthy. Vice Chairman Taraschi asked if concrete could be used to fill the void and prolong the life of the tree. Mr. Matulewicz said he would investigate further and requested this matter be tabled until the June meeting.

Gateway Park

Mrs. Towell requests the trees facing the parking lot at Gateway Park be inspected. She said that Mrs. Rossi told her that they appear to be shedding bark. The members of the Commission will check these trees.

Vice Chairman Taraschi, Mr. Lacina, and Mr. Matulewicz inspected this tree. They report small holes on the tree, suggesting damage by woodpeckers. They also report the bark of the tree is shedding in large sheets. Mr. Matulewicz said that in his opinion, the tree has a fungus.

Mr. Lacina reported significant blow down. By consensus, the Commission recommended referral of this tree to Public Works for removal.

NEW WORK

Dorner - 1208 Burlington Avenue

The homeowner requests removal of this tree. He reports the tree had less buds than in previous years, and that it has been dropping a lot of dead branches for a while. This maple is on the corner of Burlington and Maple Avenues.

Vice Chairman Taraschi inspected this tree and reports that it appears to be healthy. Mr. Lacina said he would look at this specimen.

Pippin - 321 Lilac Lane

The homeowner requests removal of two swamp maples as they are in the way of the driveway he is planning to install. The homeowner also reports that the trees are infested with insects and that they are 'dirty trees'. He reports sidewalk heave and the need to replace it. Chairman Schmitt was familiar with this tree. He reported one tree was scarred. He said he will check this tree and asks the other members to do so as well.

Open Forum

With regard to Mr. Scibilia's bill, Mr. Matulewicz will contact Mrs. Hinkle to check on the status of this item.

The planting at the Donnelly residence was discussed. Mr. Matulewicz recommends different species be planted, and suggests that we may have to settle for something other than the Golden Rain Tree proposed by Chairman Schmitt. Mr. Lacina reported Derr's Nursery had a large selection. This item is in progress. Chairman Schmitt would like to obtain either Golden Rain Trees or Yellowwood trees for this location.

Discussion of the Budget was tabled until the June meeting.

There was a discussion of a large stump on Lilac, trees at the Pearson School, and the two dead trees at the Walnut Street School.

There was a brief discussion of planting bamboo and other invasive species in easements and other places that would encroach on public property. Mrs. Towell will check the ordinance.

The Commission Social will be held on Saturday, June 27, at the home of Vice Chairman and Mrs. Taraschi, at 3 P.M.

Mr. Lacina will make his presentation on the Tree Seminar he attended, at the June meeting.

Correspondence

The approved minutes from the Meeting of March 25, 2009 and an updated tree list was sent to Mrs. DiSibio.

An updated tree list was sent to Mr. Fenimore.

Postcards were sent to Mr. McMullen and Mr. Varga advising them of the Commission's decisions in their cases.

A thank you note was sent to The Charles Tynon family for their assistance at the West Avenue Arbor Day planting.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Matulewicz, and seconded by Mr. Atkinson. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:



(Electronic Signature)

Barbara Towell, Secretary

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