



Delanco Shade Tree Commission

*Minutes of Regular Meeting
June 24, 2009*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Schmitt, at 7:15 P.M.

Flag Salute

The flag salute was conducted by all present.

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, Mrs. Towell and Township Liaison Mrs. Hinkle.

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of May 27, 2009.

A motion to approve the minutes from the Regular meeting of May 27, 2009 was made by Vice Chairman Taraschi, and seconded by Mr. Matulewicz. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Public Forum

There were no members of the public present at this meeting.

Old Work

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.

Mr. Matulewicz checked this tree a second time, but did not speak to the homeowner. He reported the while the tree appears healthy, he would like to speak with the homeowner, and forward a picture to Mr. Scibilia for his opinion before making a recommendation.

This matter was tabled until July.

Dorner - 1208 Burlington Avenue - Vice Chair Taraschi & Mr. Lacina

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.

After inspection, Vice Chairman and Mr. Lacina agree that this tree appears healthy and recommend denial of the Homeowner's request. By consensus, the Commission agreed to deny the request, and asked Mrs. Towell to send the homeowner a postcard.

Pippin - 321 Lilac Lane - Chairman Schmitt & Commission

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.

Vice Chairman Taraschi reported both trees seemed to have been trimmed back, and that while there was some sidewalk heave, it appeared to have been ramped at a previous time. Neither he nor Chairman Schmitt could see where a driveway could be feasibly installed on the property. Chairman Schmitt recommended the smaller of the two trees be removed, and the larger tree be denied. He said that as one of these trees is on Burlington Avenue, it is out of our jurisdiction. Mrs. Towell will notify the homeowner.

NEW WORK

Van Arsdale - 215 Vine Street

The homeowner requests removal of two trees at this location. The report states that these trees are "dead/dying & limbs have fallen off both of them." The homeowner is concerned about limbs or trees falling on their home or cars and causing damage. This case was assigned to Mr. Matulewicz.

Open Forum

Mr. Scibilia's bill for 2008 was submitted to the Administrator after the April meeting by Mrs. Hinkle. Mr. Scibilia has since received payment for this invoice.

Mr. Matulewicz forwarded an invoice for two Redbuds to Mrs. Lohr for payment. Mrs. Hinkle reports our budget, submitted for ten thousand, was cut to \$8300 for this year. She also reports being involved in discussions regarding the Poplar Street repaving. Chairman Schmitt will email Mrs. Towell if 310 Poplar (Allchin residence) is included in the plans. Mrs. Hinkle reports Richards Avenue is being repaved and that the plans call for six trees to be removed. Chairman Schmitt and Mr. Matulewicz will meet with the Township Engineer and survey the street beforehand. Chairman Schmitt received a package of Street plans from the Township engineer.

Mrs. Towell read the Township ordinance (code 238-2 and 238-3) prohibiting the planting trees or shrubs that may encroach on public property. Mrs. Towell forward the information to Mr. Geoffredo with regard to the bamboo at the foot of Lilac Lane.

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 made a presentation on the Tree Seminar he attended at the County. Chairman Schmitt asked for an article for the Beverly Bee. Mr. Lacina stressed the need for an 'urban canopy' as opposed to limiting trees to public places. He said that many trees are lost to development and suggests regulation so that we can maintain the number of trees we have, and for safety measures with regard to property damages and utility outages. He reports financial decisions are determined by monetary and legal considerations, but that "prudent management" for trees is something for us to consider. He reported the many benefits of trees, including summer cooling, heat abatement, glare reduction, the look of hospitality, aesthetics, and increased property values, with a corresponding improvement of municipal health and property values. Mr. Lacina also covered the environmental issues of co2 reduction, smog reduction, wildlife habitats, reduction in soil erosion and noise and wind reduction. He reported that towns undergoing massive replanting have actually saved money due to the effects of trees, i.e., improvements in air quality, storm water management, erosion control, nutrient and pesticide filters, recreation and wildlife.

Chairman Schmitt would like to dedicate two crepe myrtles to Korean War Vets. He would like to set up a date for dedication. He also stated that a receipt is needed for Mr. and Mrs. Donnelly for \$320 for the trees they purchased. Mrs. Hinkle reported on details of the July 5 parade.

Correspondence

The approved minutes from the Meeting of April 22, 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 Mrs. Rossi advising them of the Commission's decisions in their cases.

Email replies were sent to Mrs. Allchin and Mr. Cesaretti.

A formal letter was sent to Mr. Cesaretti regarding his tree. A brochure regarding mulching was enclosed.

Trees to watch

Cesaretti - 301 Willow Street - Mr. Taraschi

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 8:15 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:



(Electronic Signature)

Barbara Towell, Secretary

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