

# Delanco Shade Tree Commission

770 Coopertown Road - Delanco, NJ 08075

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## ***Delanco Shade Tree Commission***

### ***Minutes of the Regular Meeting***

***August 24, 2011***

#### ***Call to Order***

The meeting was called to order at 7:04, by Chairman Lacina.

#### ***Flag Salute***

All those present participated in the flag salute.

#### ***Sunshine Statement***

The Sunshine Statement was read aloud by Chairman Lacina.

#### ***Roll Call***

The members present at the meeting were Chairman Lacina, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Matulewicz, Mr. Atkinson, Mrs. Braun and Mrs. Hinkle.

Vice Chairman Taraschi and Mrs. Silverberg were not in attendance.

Public Works Superintendent John Fenimore also attended the meeting.

#### ***Approval of minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 27,2011***

A motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 27, 2011 was made by Chairman Lacina and was seconded by Mr. Matulewicz. The motion was carried unanimously with no abstentions.

## ***Public Forum***

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

## ***Old Work***

### ***Salek-210 Fenimore***

Homeowner is looking for removal of the tree in front of their home. It has been dropping large branches. This tree was inspected six months ago and appeared healthy but was growing fungus. It also had a large spot about six feet up on the sidewalk side that was starting to deteriorate. The Commission added this to the list of trees to be inspected by Kevin Scibilia in August.

Kevin Scibilia inspected the tree and concluded that it should be removed. A work order was submitted to the PWD.

### ***Guerra -854 Pennsylvania Ave.***

The Commission received trimming/removal requests for these trees on two separate occasions last year. It was decided that the best course of action was for the trees to be trimmed. Public Works went out to perform the work and suggested that removal would be a better option in their current condition. Mr. Fenimore asked that the Commission review the case and re-inspect the trees.

Several members of the Commission went out to inspect the trees. It was reported that the trees appeared healthy with a minimal amount of dead wood.

Mr. Fenimore asked if the Commission would reconsider. His opinion is that the trees are messy and dangerous to those pedestrians that use the sidewalks for the River Line. In addition, the Township plans on replacing the sidewalks on that street and he would like these removed before that happens.

The Commission members re-inspected the trees and decided to add them to the list of trees for Kevin Scibilia. Mayor Fitzpatrick verified that there was a grant provided for new sidewalks along Pennsylvania Ave., but that they were going in be on the opposite side of the street.

The trees in question were removed by PWD.

### ***Kearns - 16 McCay Way***

This request came from Vice Chairman Taraschi. The homeowner submitted a request to the DSTC last year about the tree in front of his home. He stated that the tree had an infestation and was directed to contact the builders because the job was still bonded. Now that the bond has expired and nothing was done with the tree, it is now the Township's responsibility. Vice Chairman Taraschi stated that he saw no evidence of infestation but asked that the Commission perform an inspection and possibly add it to the list of trees for Kevin Scibilia.

Several members for the Commission inspected the tree and while no one observed an infestation, it was agreed upon to add it to the list for Mr. Scibilia .

Kevin Scibilia inspected the tree and found no infestation. He stated that while the tree was growing slowly, it was healthy and should not be removed.

### ***New Work***

There was no new work for the Commission to discuss.

### ***Open Forum***

The Commission was concerned that the trees in front of 854 Pennsylvania Ave. were removed by Public Works even though the State Forestry expert reported that they were healthy. Mr. Fenimore explained that the homeowner had contacted him on numerous occasions and that the tree was causing significant damage. He stated that the driveway apron was lifted 4 inches and that it was easier to remove the trees before the street overlay project had begun.

Chairman Lacina and Mr. Matulewicz expressed the discontent of the Commission on having their decision disregarded. Options were discussed so that a similar situation does not arise in the future. Mrs. Hinkle suggested that 2 members of the Shade Tree should inspect and weigh in on any tree conditions that are questionable. Another

suggestion was to employ Mr. Scibilia to come to Delanco once a month and inspect any trees that Public Works or the Shade Tree felt were dangerous. Mr. Matulewicz agreed to contact Mr. Scibilia to see if it was possible to keep him on retainer.

## ***Correspondence***

An updated tree removal list was sent to John Fenimore and the approved minutes from June's meeting were sent to Marie DiSibio for posting.

The Commission received two letters this month from residence inquiring about the possibility of having trees planted at their respective locations.

Letters were sent to Mr. Brookover (1610 Rivers Edge Dr), Mr. Cimarelli (303 Walters Ave), Ms. Jungblut (2831 Goucher) and Mr. Domanski (416 Maple Ave) advising them that trees inspections had been made and that their requests had been approved.

## ***Adjournment***

A motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Lacina and was seconded by Mr. Atkinson. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.