



Delanco Shade Tree Commission

*Minutes of Regular / Reorganization Meeting
January 28, 2009*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Mrs. Towell.

Flag Salute

The flag salute was conducted by all members.

Sunshine Statement

The Sunshine Statement was read aloud by Mrs. Towell.

Roll Call

Commission members present at this meeting were: Mr. Matulewicz, Mr. Taraschi, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Atkinson, Mrs. Towell, Township Liaison Mrs. Hinkle.

Reorganization for 2009

Nomination for Chairman

Mr. Matulewicz asked not to be nominated for Chairman this year, due to increased professional obligations.

Nomination for Mr. Schmitt was made by Mr. Taraschi, and seconded by Mr. Matulewicz.

The vote was unanimous with no abstentions.

Chairman Schmitt conducted the meeting from this point forward.

Nomination for Vice Chairman

Nomination for Vice Chairman was made by Chairman Schmitt for Mr. Taraschi, and seconded by Mr. Matulewicz.

The vote was unanimous with no abstentions.

Nomination for Secretary

Nomination for Secretary was made by Chairman Schmitt for Mrs. Towell, and seconded by Mr. Matulewicz.

The vote was unanimous with no abstentions.

Motion for Commission Solicitor

Motion was made by Mr. Matulewicz to use the Township Solicitor, Mr. Heinhold. By acclamation, the Commission decided to engage the services of Mr. Heinhold, if necessary.

Motion for Consultant to the Commission

Motion was made by Mr. Matulewicz to retain Mr. Scibilia as Consultant to the Commission. By acclamation, the Commission decided to retain Mr. Scibilia as their consultant.

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of October 22, 2008.

Motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 22, 2008 was made by Mrs. Towell and seconded by Mr. Matulewicz.

The motion was carried with five votes. Mr. Atkinson abstained.

Public Forum

Mr. Corson of 429 Poplar Street Mr. Corson expressed his concerns regarding the tree next to his residence. This oak tree, on the property of the Presbyterian Church, had been previously inspected by Mr. Matulewicz, and Mrs. Towell, and was sent to Public Works for removal. Mr. Fenimore advised Mrs. Towell that this tree would have to be subcontracted as it was too large for removal by his department.

Mrs. Towell is to send an email to Mr. Fenimore, and ask him what the status of this item is. Mrs. Towell is to keep Mr. Corson advised by email.

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.

Fitzgerald - 219 Buttonwood Street - Mr. Matulewicz

Homeowner reports low hanging branches on street tree. The tree located on Rancocas Ave., near fire hydrant. Chairman Matulewicz will inspect this tree.

Mr. Matulewicz inspected this property and saw no street trees. He reports that the one tree he did see appeared to be on the Fisher property. Mrs. Towell will send the homeowner a postcard.

Spillane - 210 Magnolia Lane - Mr. Schmitt

The homeowner reports the tree is dead, is a hazard to people and property, requests removal. Mr. Schmitt will inspect this tree. Chairman Schmitt reports this tree has been removed.

NEW WORK

Yaskowski - 222 Fenimore Lane

Homeowner requests removal of this maple tree. The request reports animals living in the tree and the possibility of limbs falling. Chairman Schmitt will inspect this tree.

Payne - 1506 Second Street

Homeowner requests removal of this Bradford Pear due to significant lean. The request states that Mr. Fenimore has been made aware of the condition of the tree. Vice Chair Taraschi will inspect this tree.

Varga - 739 Chestnut Street

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 and Mr. Atkinson will inspect this tree.

Gauntt - 5 Edwards Avenue

The homeowner requests trimming of a tree in front of 3 Edwards Avenue. The homeowner reports this tree has a lot of deadwood, and caused a power outage during a recent storm. Vice Chairman Taraschi and Mr. Atkinson will inspect this tree.

Megee - 301 Lilac Lane

The homeowner requests removal of this 'gum ball' tree. The email reports that the tree sheds so many gumballs that the sidewalk is covered with them, causing the elderly couple to fall on several occasions. Chairman Schmitt will inspect this tree.

Open Forum

Mr. Matulewicz reports the Tree City Application was submitted on time, and that he is awaiting approval. He will call Mr. Wycoff to check on the status.

Mr. Matulewicz is considering planting at the train station in the spring. Mrs. Hinkle suggested a planting at West Avenue. Mrs. Towell reported that she has several Homeowner requests for new trees.

Block grants were discussed, and Mr. Matulewicz suggested planting in conjunction with any possible grants. Mrs. Hinkle stated that because we are a Commission there are grants that we can apply for, and Vice Chairman Taraschi suggested that we actively apply for any grants available to us.

Chairman Schmitt thanked the members for electing him Chairman and asked for any ideas the Commissioners may have.

Mr. Matulewicz will make sure all members have a copy of the Community Forestry Management Plan.

Mrs. Hinkle reviewed the budget for the upcoming year.

Mr. Matulewicz and Vice Chairman Taraschi discussed the River's Edge matter.

Mr. Matulewicz said that the complaint was still active to the best of his knowledge.

Correspondence

The approved minutes from the Meeting of August 27, 2008, September 24, 2008, and an updated list for Public Works was sent to Mrs. DiSibio. Mrs. Towell asked that the list be forwarded to Mr. Fenimore.

Correspondence for the Chairman from the NJ Forestry Association, State of NJ DEP, Princeton Nurseries and Community Forestry Program was received.

Letter received from Mr. Bollers requesting assistance in tree removal. (This letter was files as the tree has been removed.)

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Matulewicz, and seconded by Vice Chairman Taraschi. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:



(Electronic Signature)

Barbara Towell, Secretary

Delanco Shade Tree Commission

