



Delanco Shade Tree Commission

***Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 23, 2008***

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matulewicz at 7:10 P.M.

Flag Salute

The flag salute was conducted by all members present.

Sunshine Statement

The Sunshine Statement was read aloud by Chairman Matulewicz.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of March 26, 2008.

Motion to approve the Minutes from the meeting of March 26, 2008 was made by: Mrs. Towell, and seconded by Mr. Taraschi. The motion to approve the minutes was carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Public Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

Old Work

Conrad - 207 Cedar Street - Mr. Taraschi & Mrs. Towell

Homeowner's report reads: "Large part of tree trunk hanging over st. and electric wire's. Trunk looks to be dead (or dying), bark is falling off."

The homeowner reports this tree to be an oak tree on Cedar Street.

Note: Two trees on the inventory are associated with this address. Tree #1, to the left of door is a Sweet Gum, DBH = 23, 10% deadwood, no curb/ walk involvement, no wires, trunk damage = 10%.

Tree #2 (to the right of tree #1) is a Red Maple, DBH = 17, 30% deadwood, no curb/walk involvement, remove, no replant. (This tree should be down, as a tree at this residence was turned in to Public Works for removal in 2006.)

Mr. Taraschi and Mrs. Towell checked this specimen and recommended removal, but Mrs. Towell was unsure as to whether the tree was on public property. She suggested a measurement to determine ownership. Chairman Matulewicz will, with Mr. Schmitt to measure the easement and confirm ownership.

Mr. Taraschi spoke with the homeowner, and Mrs. Towell advised that the dead limb was directly in line with a transformer across the street.

Chairman Matulewicz directed Mrs. Towell to send the homeowner a letter asking for a copy of his survey, and the location of any property markers.

NEW WORK

Laverty - 101 Walter Avenue - Mr. Taraschi & Mr. Lacina

The homeowner requests removal of a Township tree, due to the storm of 3/8/8 that brought down two other trees in her area. This tree is to the right of the driveway, behind the flower bed, in front of the bamboo plants. This case was assigned to Mr. Taraschi and Mr. Lacina.

Upon further review, the homeowner would like 8 trees removed. (As the mailbox contained eight copies of the same application, Mrs. Towell assumed that the request was for one tree, and that the copies were simply duplicates. It was only after she received an email from Mrs. Laverty, that she realized that the homeowner requested removal of eight trees.)

Mr. Lacina agreed with Chairman Matulewicz that at least one tree, and probably two need removal. Mrs. Towell reviewed the Street Tree Survey, and it reflected only two Township trees associated with this address. Chairman Matulewicz directed Mrs. Towell to send the homeowner a letter asking for more information regarding the location of the other six trees, and to refer the two street trees to Public Works for removal.

Chairman Matulewicz also asked Mrs. Towell to send an email to Mr. Scibilia requesting clarification regarding the "H" column on his inventory.

Astemborski - 329 Delaware Ave - Mr. Lacina & Mr. Taraschi

The homeowner requests trimming of a maple tree on the left side, front of the residence. This case was assigned to Mr. Taraschi and Mr. Lacina.

Mr. Lacina inspected these trees and reported that he saw evidence that the trees had been trimmed recently. Mr. Taraschi reported that of the four maples he observed, the one to right side of the porch appears to be 20 - 30% dead. He also said that he thinks these trees are on the property line. There was a discussion of location of the trees. Mr. Lacina inquired as to the right of way, and asked if there is a standard width throughout the Township. The Commission members examined a map of the area and determined that the trees are on private property. Chairman Matulewicz directed Mrs. Towell to send a letter to the homeowner.

BISHOP/BEVERAGE – 315 Walter Avenue

Homeowners request reads: "Need tree removal due to roots. The roots are causing issues w/sewerage and water lines. We have had many issues. Fred (the Township Planner) came by this week." The homeowner reports the tree is located between the curb and sidewalk. This case was assigned to Mr. Lacina.

NESTOR – 210 Holly Street

Homeowner's request reads: "A large branch has snapped and it is about to fall on my neighbor's car. This tree needs to be removed ASAP." The homeowner reports the tree is to the right of the front of the residence and is the only large tree. This case was assigned to Chairman Matulewicz.

KAZUNAS – 33 Shipps Way

Homeowner's request reads: "Two trees are dead or dying, need replacements." The homeowner states that the trees are directly in front of the residence.

VINING/NEEDLEMAN – 20 Emery Way

Homeowner's report reads: "Tree was knocked down by wind and lightning storm over two years ago, passed by with other tree replacements. Was finally cut 6" from ground but not replaced. (Stump/roots still in tree belt.) Homeowner reports stump to be on Myers at side of their corner property.

HARRISON – 79 Shipps Way

Homeowners Report reads: "High winds caused tree to snap in half." The homeowner reports the tree to be on right side of residence by road.

A discussion among the Commission members revealed that the trees at Newton's Landing should be covered under a maintenance bond of the builder. Mrs. Towell was directed to scan the requests and send them to Scott Taylor, planner for Newton's and JLUB who will inspect the trees.

Correspondence

Mrs. Towell sent Mrs. DiSibio an updated list of trees forwarded to Public Works for action. Also sent to Mrs. DiSibio were the Minutes from September 2007, January 2008, and February 2008.

An updated list of trees was sent to Mr. Fenimore.

A hard copy of the Annual Accomplishment Report cover page was forwarded to Mayor Oullette for his signature.

A postcard was sent to Mrs. Brookover and Mr. Vena informing them of the Commission's decision in their cases.

A letter was sent to Mr. and Mrs. Bollers via email informing them that no decision was made with regard to their trees pending his site plan approval from JLUB, and permits granted.

A letter was sent to Mr. and Mrs. Conrad requesting a copy of their survey so that ownership of their tree can be determined.

Membership dues to the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation were sent with a PO for \$145.00.

Open Forum

We are still in need of a measurement at the Farko residence on Second Street and the Conrad residence on the corner of Second and Cedar. (Chairman Matulewicz to check).

“Most Magnificent” Plaque. Mrs. Towell needs to send this out for bids.

Regarding The Tree City Application, Chairman Matulewicz reported that he had an event planned at the Walnut Street School for Friday, April 25, at 9:30 in the morning. Mrs. Hinkle said that the Arbor Day Proclamation will be read at the event, and that she will prepare an article for publication in the Beverly Bee. Due to the size and weight of the new specimens, Chairman Matulewicz has requested assistance from Public Works and the Walnut Street School maintenance department.

There was a discussion of a possible spring seminar with Kevin Scibilia for the members of the Commission and Public Works Employees.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lacina, and seconded by Mrs. Towell. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Matulewicz at 8:10 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:



(Electronic Signature)

Barbara Towell, Secretary

Delanco Shade Tree Commission