



Delanco Shade Tree Commission

***Minutes of Regular Meeting
August 27, 2008***

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matulewicz at 7:05 P.M.

Flag Salute

The flag salute was conducted by all members and guests.

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, Mr. Schmitt, Mrs. Towell, and Township Liaison Mrs. Hinkle.

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of June 25, 2008.

This item was tabled at the request of Chairman Matulewicz.

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of July 23, 2008.

Motion to approve the Minutes from the meeting of July 23, 2008 was made by Mrs. Towell, and seconded by Mr. Taraschi. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Public Forum

At the request of Mrs. Hinkle, Mr. Weller of the Delanco Sewerage Authority was in attendance.

Chairman Matulewicz asked Mr. Weller if it were possible to 'camera' the lines in town. Mr. Weller said that it was. He also said that most lines in town are terra cotta, but that there are a few plastic mains. Mr. Weller said that at this time, there is no plan to replace all the mains with plastic. There was a discussion of infiltration issues and a discussion of tree roots with regard to laterals. Mr. Weller said that glued plastic line

while the most effective, is not an absolute remedy for root intrusion. Chairman Matulewicz asked for suggestions with regard to this issue. Mr. Weller said that chemicals often work, but that they should be avoided as they can damage the pipes. Mr. Weller said that the homeowner is responsible to the main. He explained that when roots are cut, they often return. There was a discussion of using TV cameras in sewer lines and specifications for lateral lines, with the conclusion being that there is no sure remedy for root intrusion. There was also a discussion of the remaining septic systems in town, followed by a discussion of remedies for removing roots from mains and routing of the mains.

Mr. Jack Hoefle, of 44 Pennington Court was also in attendance. Mr. Hoefle asked the Commission for a time frame regarding the replacement of the street trees at Newton's Landing. Mrs. Hinkle reported that the trees were scheduled for replacement in the fall. Mr. Taraschi mentioned that the builder had a two year bond regarding the landscaping elements. Chairman Matulewicz said that landscapers customarily only provide a one year guarantee on plantings. There was a discussion of the builders bond, including possible terms and replacement options.

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.

Mrs. Towell received a copy of the homeowner's survey, and forwarded it to Chairman Matulewicz.

Mrs. Towell sent Chairman Matulewicz an email reminder to measure this tree.

Chairman Matulewicz asked Mrs. Towell to put this case on the August agenda.

Chairman Matulewicz determined by measurement that the tree in question is the Township responsibility. His conclusion was based on his measurement of the right of

way at fifty feet. After a discussion among members of the Commission who had inspected this specimen, Mr. Taraschi made a motion to remove the large dead branch. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lacina and Mr. Schmitt, and passed unanimously with no abstentions.

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.

Mrs. Towell sent Mrs. Laverty an email asking for the location of the other trees that she requested removal of and notified her of the decision to recommend removal of her two street trees.

Mrs. Towell sent all members an email regarding placement of the trees that she received from Mrs. Laverty. Chairman Matulewicz checked these trees and doesn't see any reason to remove the locusts. Chairman Matulewicz and Mr. Lacina are to inspect these trees on Friday 06/27/08. He directed Mrs. Towell to send Mrs. Laverty an email advising her of the pending visit. Mrs. Towell sent the email on 06/25/08. Chairman Matulewicz visited with the homeowner and reports that she requests every tree within 'fall range' of her home to be removed. He suggests that Mr. Scibilia inspect these trees to determine any hazard. He will contact Mr. Scibilia regarding this matter, and feels that expense would be far less than removing eight healthy trees. Chairman Matulewicz requests this case be left on the agenda through September. Chairman Matulewicz asked Mrs. Towell to rescind removal of two street trees previously submitted to Public Works and keep this case on the agenda until Mr. Scibilia can inspect them.

ASTEMBORSKI - 329 Delaware Avenue - Chairman Matulewicz

The homeowners request a measurement to determine if trees they want removed are on public or private property.

Chairman Matulewicz determined by measurement that the Norway Maple in question is in the right of way, and in need of removal. He directed Mrs. Towell to send this specimen to Public Works.

KARWACKI - 734 Third Street - Mr. Taraschi

Homeowner's request reads: "Rental inspection - sidewalk raised. Property is a rental." There is also a notation on the request that reads: "2nd request, Emergency, Sidewalk ripped up now!!!" This case was deferred until August.

Mr. Taraschi inspected this tree and showed the Commission members pictures. His conclusion was that while the concrete is deteriorated, and presenting a tripping hazard, the deterioration is not due to the tree. He reports that the tree appears to be healthy. After a brief discussion, and a review of the photographs, the Commission decided, by consensus, to deny the homeowner's request.

HAMLIN - 223 Peachtree Lane - Mr. Lacina

Mr. Hamlin would like the tree at his residence removed. A copy of his request was sent to all members via email. This case was assigned to Mr. Lacina.

Mr. Lacina inspected this tree and observed that the worst section of the tree was toward Lilac, and that the tree has heave, but there is no sidewalk. He reports that the tree is in fair condition. Chairman Matulewicz has deferred this case until August. After further inspection, Chairman Matulewicz directed Mrs. Towell to refer the Silver Maple to Public Works for removal.

SEIDT - 220 Oakford Avenue - Mr. Lacina & Mr. Schmitt

Homeowner requests removal of oak tree and remarks that the one next to the dead tree is also dying. This case was assigned to Mr. Lacina and Mr. Schmitt.

Mark recommends removal of first two trees on Third Street. Two pin okas.

NEWMAN - 216 West Avenue - Chairman Matulewicz

Homeowner reports that the sidewalk is 'very bad for walkers'. This case was assigned to Mr. Lacina, Mr. Schmitt and Chairman Matulewicz.

Mr. Lacina reported that while the sidewalk needs to be replaced, the tree itself is healthy. By consensus, removal of this tree was denied.

MARINO - 1602 Second Street - Mr. Schmitt

The Homeowner reports: "Tree has had its day. 1) Broken branch ready to come down on existing wires, 2) Trunk leaning towards street, 3) Roots around sewer could be a problem. (Fred Weller is aware of tree.)" The homeowner also requests stump removal and a replacement tree.

Mr. Schmitt reported this Linden tree was flat pruned, and does have a slight lean. The consensus of the Commission was to refer this tree to public works for trimming.

NEW WORK

Snyder – 405 Maple Ave.

The homeowner requests removal of this tree. The homeowner is fearful that the tree will fall on wires or children. This case was assigned to Mr. Schmitt and Mr. Lacina.

Cesaretti - 301 Willow Street

The homeowner requests removal of a dying tree to the left of his residence. This case was assigned to Mr. Taraschi.

Correspondence

Mrs. Towell sent Mrs. DiSibio an updated list of trees forwarded to Public Works for action.

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

A postcard was sent to Angelo, Price, and Moranor, and emails were sent to Wilmerton, and Thum advising them of the Commission's decision in their cases. Marino was added to the New Tree List.

A letter was drafted to Bishop/ Beverage regarding their request for removal of their tree and forwarded to Chairman Matulewicz.

An email request for a membership card for Mr. Schmitt was sent to the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation.

Chairman Matulewicz was sent Commission letterhead.

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). Chairman Matulewicz will measure this on Friday 06/27/08.

After measuring this tree, Chairman Matulewicz asked Mrs. Towell to refer this to Public Works for removal.

With regard to the Tree City Application status: The only item needed for submission is the per capita expenditure figure from Mr. Fenimore.

Chairman Matulewicz reported The Commissions Management Plan needs to be updated.

Mrs. Hinkle presented the Commission members with informational booklets from the DRPA regarding municipal tree management.

The seminar for Commission members with Mr. Scibilia, tentatively scheduled for the end of September, is now on hold until the second half of October.

Mrs. Hinkle reports the proposed tree ordinance has been removed from the Township website.

Chairman Matulewicz completed the Insurance claim questionnaire for Berrevoets. The NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Meeting October 24 - 26 was discussed. Mrs. Towell asked the members to let her know if they could attend.

Mrs. Towell gave each Commission Member a CD for the Street Tree Inventory.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Towell , and seconded by Mr. Taraschi. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:



(Electronic Signature)

Barbara Towell, Secretary

Delanco Shade Tree Commission