



Delanco Shade Tree Commission

*Minutes of Regular Meeting
September 24, 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. Schmitt, Mrs. Towell and Township Liaison Mrs. Hinkle.

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

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of June 25, 2008 Was made by Mrs. Towell, and seconded by Mr. Taraschi. The motion carried unanimously, with no abstentions.

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of August 27, 2008.

Motion to approve the Minutes from the meeting of August 27, 2008 was tabled by Chairman Matulewicz.

Public Forum

Mr. and Mrs. Allchin of 304 Poplar Street were in attendance. They inquired as to the status of a tree they requested removal on. Mrs. Towell checked through her records and discovered that while the tree had been approved for removal, it had not been forwarded to Public Works. Mrs. Towell apologized for the oversight and assured the Allchin's that she would forward their tree to Public Works for removal via email to Mr. Fenimore.

Old 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.

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 previously submitted to Public Works and keep this case on the agenda until Mr. Scibilia can inspect them.

Chairman Matulewicz drafted a response to Mrs. Laverty, which he sent to her and the Commission members via email. He reports that the trees in question are in good health. He asked that this matter be removed from the agenda.

Mrs. Towell will place these trees on the list for Mr. Scibilia to inspect.

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. Mrs. Towell said that she believed this tree to be down, and that she would check on it make sure. (This Maple is 40% dead, and has not been removed as of 10/17/08; Mrs. Towell sent Mr. Fenimore an email regarding removal.)

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.

Bollers - 704 Hickory Street - Mrs. Towell

Homeowners request removal of large tree on Walnut Street side, as it will be in the path of the garage of the new home they're building. (At the homeowner's previous request, Mrs. Towell sent them an email requesting copies of site plans and permits granted.) On 10/17/2008, Mrs. Towell spoke with Mrs. Bollers and requested plans and permits. She advised the homeowner of the 10/22 meeting. Mrs. Bollers said that Mr. Bollers would attend.

First Presbyterian Church - 505 Union Avenue

Property owners request removal of this tree. Mrs. Towell looked at this large oak on the Poplar Street side of the building and estimates it to be 40-50% dead. It is the second tree from the corner of Union Street. This case was assigned to Chairman Matulewicz.

Correspondence

Mrs. Towell sent Mrs. DiSibio an updated list of trees forwarded to Public Works for action, and the minutes from the regular meeting of July 23, 2008.

A hard copy of the updated list of trees was put in Mr. Fenimore's mail box.

A postcard was sent to Conrad, Astemborski, Karwacki, Hamlin, Seidt, Newman and Marino them of the Commission's decision in their cases.

A membership card from the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation was received for Mr. Schmitt.

Open Forum

Tree City Application status: The only item needed for submission is the per capita expenditure figure from Mr. Fenimore. (Mrs. Towell will send an email to Mr. Fenimore and Mrs. Lohr requesting this information.)

The Commissions Management Plan needs to be updated.

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.

The NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Meeting October 24 - 26 was discussed. The deadline for applications is October 10. Mr. Taraschi would like to attend. Mr. Schmitt will check his calendar and advise Mrs. Towell.

Mrs. Towell met with Mr. Fenimore on 9/10/08 and reviewed the status of the cases sent to public works.


Adjournment

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 7:45 P.M.

Meeting minutes prepared by:



(Electronic Signature)

Barbara Towell, Secretary

Delanco Shade Tree Commission