

# Delanco Shade Tree Commission

770 Coopertown Road - Delanco, NJ 08075

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

### ***Agenda of Regular Meeting***

***April 28, 2010***

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

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Matulewicz, at 7:07.

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

All those present participated in the flag salute.

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

The Sunshine Statement was read aloud by Mr. Matulewicz.

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

Members present at the meeting were :Chairman Schmitt, Vice Chairman Taraschi, Mr. Matulewicz, Mr. Lacina, Mrs. Lubeck, Mrs. Braun, and Township Liaison, Mrs. Hinkle. Mr. Atkinson was not in attendance.

#### ***Approval Of Minutes from Regular Meeting of March 24, 2010.***

A motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of March 24, 2010 was made by Mr. Lacina, and was seconded by Mrs. Braun. The motion was carried unanimously with no abstentions.

## ***Public Forum***

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

## ***Old Work***

### ***Morris - 424 Kansas Avenue - Mr. Taraschi***

Homeowner requests the removal of the cherry tree on the left corner of the property. The homeowner believes that the tree is dead.

Vice Chairman Taraschi inspected the tree and reported that the tree shows some evidence of deterioration but a determination could not be made as to whether the tree is the homeowner's responsibility or the Township's. An agreement was made to table the matter until the March meeting so more measurements could be taken. The request was also made to send Mr. Morris a letter to see if he would like to attend the meeting and share any insight he may have on where his property line falls in relation to the tree.

At the March meeting, Vice Chairman Taraschi stated that the tree appeared to be in good health and was showing lots of growth in spite of the damage to part of the trunk. He felt that the measurements taken were inconclusive and he would like to go out again to make sure that the tree is on the homeowner's property and not a Township tree.

Chairman Schmitt and Vice Chairman Taraschi re-measured and concluded that this is a Township tree, but that it is in good health and that no action needed to be taken at this time.

### ***Ridgeway- 301 Holly Street--Mr. Taraschi/Mr. Matulewicz***

Homeowner is requesting removal of the Oak tree on the Third Street side of her property. She says that it has been trimmed several times by the PWD but that it still continuously drops large branches. She is concerned that it is not safe and is afraid it may fall on her house.

Vice Chairman Taraschi made a preliminary determination that the tree needed to be trimmed. Mr. Matulewicz stated that he would go back out and do an inspection.

Mr. Matulewicz reported at the meeting that the tree in question was a healthy Red Maple and that he felt no action needed to be taken at this time.

**De La Pena- 2828 Goucher Ave.--Mr. Atkinson**

Homeowner is requesting the removal of a tree located on the curb directly in front of his house. He gives no indication that the tree may be dead or of falling branches. He only states that it is ugly and that the branches are hanging over his roof.

This request was tabled until the next meeting because of Mr. Atkinson's absence.

**McNeil/Gereaghty- 410 Third Street---Mr. Lacina/Mr. Taraschi**

Homeowner is requesting a trimming of the tree on the front right section of his property. He states that the branches are growing wild and are entwined in his house wires and also the wires on the curb line. He has already tried contacting PSE&G on the matter and has gotten no response.

Vice Chairman Taraschi noted that he had driven by the residence and noticed a large pile of branched by the curb. Mr. Lacina stated that he would go back and do an inspection.

Mr. Lacina revisited this property and reported that no action needed to be taken at this time.

**Renson-230 Center Ave.--Mr. Atkinson**

Homeowner states that he contacted the STC in September about a tree that is on the corner of Center Ave and Third Street and received no response. He stated that it is dropping limbs and is looking for an inspection with the possibility of either a trimming or removal.

This request was tabled until the next meeting because of Mr. Atkinson's absence.

**New Work**

**Mack- 309 Lilac Lane--Chairman Schmitt**

Homeowner is concerned that the tree is lifting the sidewalk and may cause someone serious injury. She is requesting a possible removal and a replacement with a new tree.

This case was pre-assigned to Chairman Schmitt via email.

Vice Chairman Taraschi went out and via email reported that the tree is large and well proportioned and that the sidewalk needs ramping.

Mr. Lacina reported that he went out to the property and agreed with Vice Chairman Taraschi's determination.

### ***Tyler-838 Laurel Street--Mr. Atkinson***

Homeowner has been summoned by his Home Owners Insurance to fix the sidewalk in front of the home. He states that it is being pushed up by the roots. He has not commented on the health of the tree nor has he made a removal/trimming request. He is looking for a root removal in order to get the sidewalk fixed.

This case has been pre-assigned to Mr. Atkinson via email.

This request was tabled until the next meeting because of Mr. Atkinson's absence.

### ***Clelland-228 Fenimore Lane***

Homeowner is requesting a removal of the tree located on the left front of his property between the curb and sidewalk. The tree has lifted 2 pieces of sidewalk and a portion of his driveway apron.

Mr. Atkinson did a preliminary inspection and reported that the Silver Maple in question is actually in front of 222 Fenimore Ln. He states that it is in relative good health with only a few dead branches. The branches are in the wires and the sidewalk is lifted. Mr. Atkinson suggested that the tree is a low priority and that a trimming might be in order.

Vice Chairman Taraschi reported that the sidewalk was in need of ramping or that a sidewalk diversion should be implemented and that trimming or any other action would be put on hold until the August meeting.

### ***Pippin/Chapman- 1505 Second Street***

Homeowner is looking for removal of tree because of dropping berries and falling limbs. He is also looking for a trimming of large tree in front of the house. Homeowner claims that it is so dense that his lawn is now full of moss and mushrooms.

Mr. Atkinson did a preliminary inspection and reported that the tree closest to the driveway appears to be in distress with budding but no leaves and several dead branches. He suggested that the tree should be removed. Mr. Atkinson also reported that the trimming request for the other tree should be denied. He states that it is very large but is in great shape and poses no risk to the home or homeowners.

Vice Chairman Taraschi also went out to inspect the trees and it was determined that the dead wood would be trimmed out of the late budding tree but that no other action should be taken at this time. The consensus was that a member would revisit the location in two months time and make a final determination.

### ***Danser- 514 Walnut Street***

Homeowner is looking for the removal of a tree in front of the house. He states that it appears to be dead with no leaves growing on the upper half of the tree. He states that he previously submitted this request back in October, and received no response.

Mr. Atkinson did a preliminary inspection and reported that the top of the tree is bare but that it appears to be coming back. He suggested that we delay any action now and revisit it at a later date.

Vice Chairman Taraschi also went out and did an inspection. It was determined that a request should be submitted to the PWD for removal and that a possible replacement tree would be addressed at a later date.

### ***Brannon- 515 Ash Street***

Homeowner is looking for removal of tree because of frequently falling branches and the lifting of the sidewalk. She states that the branches extend over her roof, into the electrical wires and that branches have fallen on her car in the past.

Mr. Atkinson did a preliminary inspection and reported that the tree is very large but appears to be in good health. He categorized it as a low priority and that a possible trim might be in order.

Mr. Lacina and Mr. Matulewicz also inspected the tree and the determination was made to submit a trimming request to the PWD for the branches that hang over the residence.

## ***401 & 409 Ash Street- Mr. Atkinson***

### ***401***

Mr. Atkinson reports that this a tall Oak that should be considered a high priority removal. It is suffering from blight/leaf scorch and has several large dead branches. He states that it is dangerous to homeowners and pedestrians.

All members were in agreement with Mr. Atkinson that the tree was high risk and should be removed. A request was submitted to the PWD.

### ***409***

Mr. Atkinson reports that this Sweet Gum is suffering from Oak blight and is rotting. He states that several large branches have fallen and tree is dangerous. It has been classified as a high priority for removal.

All members were in agreement with Mr. Atkinson that the tree was high risk and should be removed. A request was submitted to the PWD.

## ***Additional Requests Addressed***

### ***635 Laurel- Thomas***

This was a request submitted earlier in the year that was previously tabled. Mr. Matulewicz went out to do a follow up inspection and reported that the tree has a girdling root and should be removed. A request was sent to the PWD for removal.

## ***Open Forum***

Chairman Schmitt went over what he planned to do for the kindergarten class of Pearson school for Arbor Day. He stated that he was going to read "The Lorax" to the children and then donate the book to the school. He also made an activity sheet for them.

Mrs. Lubeck stated that she would try to go to Pearson School for the reading to take pictures and also offered to write an article for Newton Landing's newsletter.

Chairman Schmitt and Mr. Matulewicz decided to delay the Arbor Day planting until another time but wanted to at least plant a token tree for the Arbor Day weekend planting.

Mr. Matulewicz stated that he had an Arbor Day flag that could be flown in observance of the day. Mrs. Hinkle responded that she would put in a request for that to happen.

Mrs. Hinkle and Mrs. Lubeck spoke about contacting the Beverly Bee to see if a Shade Tree article could be submitted.

Mr. Matulewicz reported that he had been in touch with Mr. Fenimore who is in the process of picking a contractor to aid in tree removals and also Kevin Scibilia for an inventory update.

## ***Correspondence***

An updated tree removal list was sent to John Fenimore. The approved minutes from both January's and February's agenda were sent to Marie DiSibio for posting. An email was sent to Janice Lohr, informing her of Anne Lubeck's new membership to the STC.

Chairman Schmitt contacted the County in order to establish a contact for future reference. He was instructed to refer any County tree complaints to the Highway Department at 609-726-7300.

Letters were sent to Mr. Sevey (601 Vine St.) and to Mr. Morris (424 Kansas Ave.) advising them that tree inspections had been performed and what determinations were made.

An email was received from Mr. Trout on Richards Ave. He states that he was informed that he would get a new tree in the Spring and is inquiring as to when it will be planted. Chairman Schmitt stated that he would contact Mr. Trout on this issue.

The STC received notice that Janice Lohr read a proclamation at April's Township Meeting in recognition of Arbor Day.

Marlene Jass contacted Chairman Schmitt about the root cutting and the repairing of sidewalks at Newton's Landing. She stated that she had spoken with John Fenimore on the matter and would submit something in writing to the STC so that it could be addressed at this meeting. Chairman Schmitt replied to Mrs. Jass that she needed to defer to the Joint Land Use Board because they are not our trees.

## ***Adjournment***

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:11PM.