

Delanco Shade Tree Commission

770 Coopertown Road - Delanco, NJ 08075

Delanco Shade Tree Commission

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

August 25, 2010

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:07PM by Chairman Schmitt.

Flag Salute

All those present participated in the flag salute.

Sunshine Statement

The Sunshine Statement was read aloud by Chairman Schmitt.

Roll Call

The members present at this meeting were Chairman Schmitt , Mr. Matulewicz, Mr. Lacina , Mrs. Silverberg, Mrs. Braun and Mrs. Hinkle.

Vice Chairman Taraschi and Mr. Atkinson were not in attendance.

Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 28, 2010

A motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 28, 2010 was made by Mr. Matulewicz and was seconded by Mr. Lacina. The motion was carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Public Forum

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

Old Work

Andersen - 211 Maple Ave.

Homeowner is looking for the removal or substantial trimming of 3 trees on his street. The first 2 are Red Maples in front of his home. He states that they are overgrown and interfering with utility wires as well as causing the lifting of several sections of sidewalk. He adds that PSE&G has already been out to inspect and has refused his request. He would like the DSTC to take action or grant him the ability to personally have them removed.

The third tree is in front of 217 Maple Ave. He is looking for removal or significant trimming of this tree. He states that it is overgrown and tangled in the utility wires to the point that it is disrupting telephone service. Verizon has been contacted but they refuse to touch the tree in question.

Chairman Schmitt and Vice Chairman Taraschi both went out to inspect these trees. A recommendation was made to deny all requests. The trees appear to be in good health and are not in need of trimming.

Since alerting Mr. Andersen of our decision, he has sent us an additional email, called the Township office, and sent a letter to Diane Allen. Chairman Schmitt asked that all members take a look at the trees again so that they can be discussed at the meeting.

Mr. Matulewicz and Chairman Schmitt both went out to the residence and did another inspection. They did not see any sidewalk displacement, signs of disease or any other evidence that any of the trees mentioned were unhealthy. The DSTC stood by its initial assessment and agreed that we would take no action. Chairman Schmitt offered to have the PWD contact PSE&G to trim some of the branches that are near utility wires.

New Work

Pywell-509 Orchard Ave.

Homeowner is looking for the removal of a Sycamore tree in front of her residence. She states that it is old and that several branches have come down due to recent thunderstorms.

Mr. Lacina and Mrs. Silverberg both performed inspections and stated that the tree appears to be healthy with no evidence of decay. They agreed that no action should be taken at this time and that the homeowner's removal request should be denied.

Rogers- 1 Edwards Ave.

Homeowner is looking for the removal of a tree to the left of the driveway between his residence and house #3. He states that it appears to be dying and that several large limbs have fallen recently.

Mrs. Silverberg went to the residence to perform an inspection. Her observation was that the tree was in relative good health and may possibly just need a trimming. She asked that other members of the Commission take an additional look because this was her first tree inspection since becoming a member.

Open Forum

Mrs. Hinkle stated that she was reviewing minutes from several old DSTC meetings and was concerned that our membership numbers were not as high as they should be and that perhaps some steps should be taken to expand membership. Mr. Matulewicz thought that the 1999 ordinance projected the numbers to reflect 5 members and 2 alternates. If that is correct, than the Commission's numbers are in line with the ordinance. It was agreed upon by all members to table the discussion until next month so more research could be done.

Mr. Matulewicz also discussed the upcoming CEU training and possible dates that would be convenient for a majority of the members. Monday evenings were decided upon and Mr. Matulewicz stated that he would contact the Forestry Department to attempt to set the classes up.

Correspondence

An updated tree removal list was sent to John Fenimore and the approved minutes from June's meeting were sent to Marie DiSibio for posting.

Mr. Matulewicz received verification that Delanco's Business Stimulus Fund Grant has been executed and that we may now proceed with our forestry projects.

The DSTC received a mailing from Hopewell Nursery in Bridgeton, which included their tree/shrub availability and price list. The Arbor Day Foundation provided registration forms for the Community Forestry National Conference which will be held on November 9-11. And a budget account status report for all Shade Tree expenses was also provided by the Township Office.

Letters were sent to Mr. Pippin (1505 Second St), Mr. Renson (230 Center Ave), and Mr. Scornaerchi (210 Lilac Ln) advising them that tree inspections were performed and that their requests for trimming/removal had been approved.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Schmitt and was seconded by Mr. Matulewicz. The motion was carried unanimously with no abstentions.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.