

# Delanco Shade Tree Commission

770 Coopertown Road -Delanco, NJ 08075

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

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

***June 23, 2010***

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Schmitt at 7:15 PM.

#### ***Flag salute***

All those present participated in the flag salute.

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

The Sunshine Statement was read aloud by Chairman Schmitt.

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

All members were present at this meeting

#### ***Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 26, 2010***

A motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 26, 2010 was made by Mr. Matulewicz, and was seconded by Mr. Atkinson. All members were in favor, with

the exception of Chairman Schmitt, who abstained because of his absence at the last meeting.

## ***Public Forum***

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

## ***Old Work***

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

Mrs. Ridgeway attended the May meeting and asked that someone come back out so she could show them exactly what part of the tree she is concerned about. Mr. Matulewicz agreed to do that.

Vice Chairman Taraschi went out to take a few pictures. Mr. Matulewicz also went back out to the residence and reported that upon further inspection, the tree may have root rot and he would like Kevin Scibilia to take a look at a later date.

### **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 previously assigned to Mr. Atkinson. Upon going out to perform an inspection, he had trouble locating the residence. The house numbers on the street do not go in order. The homeowner was contacted and provided a description of his home. Mr. Atkinson agreed to go back out and take a look at the tree in question.

Mr. Atkinson reported that the tree has a significant amount of dead wood and has been split severely by the power lines and poor trimming. The dead branches are very close to a pole with a transformer on it. Vice Chairman Taraschi also observed significant sidewalk upheaval. The recommendation was for tree removal. A work order was sent to PWD and a letter was sent to Mr. De La Pena advising him of our determination.

### ***Wilkins - 535 Franklin Street- Mr. Atkinson & Mr. Matulewicz***

Homeowner requests trimming of a tree in front of the neighbor's house on the right side. The request states that the branches are growing into her yard and are leaning on the power lines.

Mr. Atkinson inspected the tree and reported that it was in fact leaning on the homeowner's power lines and several branches were on the ground. It was recommended that a request for trimming should be submitted to Public Works.

This request was submitted to PWD back in February. Mrs. Wilkins sent an email to the Commission to say that this work had yet to be done. On contacting PWD, Mr. Fenimore responded that he believes that the entire tree may need to be removed and asked if Chairman Schmitt would go out and inspect it again. Chairman Schmitt agreed to re-inspect and discuss this at the meeting.

Chairman Schmitt reported that the tree looked to be in relative good health and that he believed it only needed a trim. He stated that he would follow up with John Fenimore on this matter.

### ***New Work***

#### ***Rannu - 607 Franklin Street***

Homeowner requests trimming of a Maple tree on the left side of the property. He states that the branches are low and is concerned that they may fall on his home.

Vice Chairman Taraschi inspected the tree and reported that it appeared healthy with a very small amount of dead wood. A recommendation was made that no action should be taken at this time. While performing this inspection, a dead Maple on the corner of Poplar and Franklin Streets was noticed. A work order was sent to PWD to have this tree removed as it appears to be dangerous.

### ***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.

### ***Open Forum***

Mr. Matulewicz spoke about the Poplar Street curb improvements and on removal and replacement ideas. Preliminary suggestions were that the Linden and the two Pin Oaks in front of the Presbyterian Church should probably be removed and that the Sycamores should be saved. It was also agreed upon that the members would like Kevin Scibilia to take a look at this two block area for some ideas going forward. Mr. Atkinson suggested that the stump on Poplar that was left by PSE&G after a earlier tree removal, should be removed.

Mr. Matulewicz reported that the previously decided planting on Richards Ave. for Mr. Trout may have to wait until the Fall because of the lack of available trees and the belief that the planting window was missed.

Mr. Lacina expressed his concerns on the lack of replacement trees being planted compared to the amount that are being removed. He suggested that it may be more cost effective to buy smaller replacement trees and establish a make shift nursery to grow them ourselves in order to accelerate future plantings.

Mrs. Hinkle spoke at length about the impending dredging of The Dunes by the Army Corp. and the DEP, and the possible implications that this may have on the town. She suggested that the DSTC should write a letter to Susan Dietrich of the DEP voicing our unhappiness at the prospect of this coming to our town. Vice Chairman Taraschi agreed to compose a letter for the Commission to mail.

## ***Correspondence***

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

Letters were sent to Mr. Stout (229 Larchmont Dr.) and Mr. Daley (300 Walter Ave.) advising them that tree inspections were performed and that trimming requests were sent to PWD. A letter was sent to Mr. Kiss (216 Lilac Ln.) advising him that his tree removal request had been approved and that a work order was sent to PWD. A letter was sent to Mr. Tyler for him to forward on to his Home Owners Insurance as discussed at the last meeting.

The Commission received paperwork regarding the New Jersey Business Stimulus Fund Grant regarding the next steps necessary in order to receive the money.

## ***Adjournment***

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.