

Delanco Shade Tree Commission

770 Coopertown Road -Delanco, NJ 08075

Delanco Shade Tree Commission

Agenda of Regular Meeting

May 26, 2010

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Taraschi at 7:04.

Flag Salute

All those present participated in the flag salute.

Sunshine Statement

The Sunshine Statement was read aloud by Mrs. Braun

Roll Call

All members were present at the meeting.

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of April 28, 2010

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

Public Forum

Mrs. Ridgeway, who lives at 301 Holly Street, attended the meeting. She previously submitted a tree trimming request that the DSTC subsequently denied. She was asking for a second inspection. She has stated that her main concern is the very large rotting branch that is leaning toward her home. Mr. Matulewicz stated that he would go back out to the residence and take another look.

Mr. Tyler, who lives at 838 Laurel Street, also attended the meeting. He had previously submitted a request because his sidewalk is lifted and Homeowners Insurance has stated that there needs to be a repair done before they will provide him with coverage. Vice Chairman Taraschi spoke with Mr. Tyler about his options for ramping the sidewalk or creating a diversion. Mr. Matulewicz offered a letter from the DSTC, if needed, for him to submit to the insurance company. He accepted and a letter was mailed to him.

Old 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.

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.

Mr. Atkinson reported that he went out to the home and spoke with the homeowner about the tree in question. He explained to Mr. Tyler that the sidewalk was his responsibility and offered some solutions for his problem.

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.

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.

New Work

229 Larchmont Dr.-Stout

Homeowner is requesting removal of tree in front of his residence. He states that it is half dead.

Both Vice Chairman Taraschi and Mr. Atkinson inspected the tree and determined that while it appears to be very stable, there are a substantial number of heavy, dead limbs. It was agreed that a request should be submitted to the PWD for PSEG to come trim the branches out of the wires.

300 Walter Ave- Daley

Homeowner is looking for the removal of tree to the left of her property and a possible new tree. She states that the tree has been dropping large branches and damaging vehicles.

Both Vice Chairman Taraschi and Mr. Atkinson inspected the tree and determined that this should be classified as a high priority trimming. It was agreed that a request should be submitted to the PWD for PSEG to come and trim the branches out of the wires.

216 Lilac Lane- Kiss

Homeowner states that tree was struck by lightning and is dead. He is looking for removal of the tree.

Chairman Schmitt inspected the tree and reported that the crown was dead and that the rest of the tree appeared to be dying. His opinion was that the tree should be removed but indicated that a second opinion would be helpful.

All members were in agreement with Chairman Schmitt's assessment and a request was submitted to PWD for removal of the tree.

Open Forum

Mr. Matulewicz reported that he was still trying to get a tree for the proposed planting on Richards Ave. , but was having little luck locating an appropriate tree from a nearby nursery.

Chairman Schmitt brought in all of the "Thank You" cards that he received from the children of Pearson School for his Arbor Day presentation.

Mrs. Hinkle congratulated the Commission for being recognized by Tree City USA for the second year in a row.

Mr. Matulewicz voiced his concerns over the proposal for new sidewalks on Poplar Street. He would like to take a look at the plans for this project . He is worried about the trees on this street and would like to make an attempt to save some of the mature ones.

Correspondence

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

Letters were sent to Mr. Morris (424 Kansas Ave), Mrs.Ridgeway (301 Holly St), Mr. McNeil (410 Third St), Mrs. Mack (309 Lilac Ln), and Mr. Clelland (228 Fenimore) denying their tree removal requests.

Letters were sent to Mr. Pippin (1505 Second St) and Mr. Brannon (515 Ash St) advising them that their requests for tree trimming had been approved and that a work order had been sent to the PWD.

Letters were sent to Mr. Danser (514 Walnut St), Mr. Thomas (635 Laurel St) and the homeowners of both 401 and 409 Ash St. advising them that these trees had been inspected and would be removed in a timely manner.

The Commission received an email from Mr. Tyler of 838 Laurel Street inquiring to see if any decisions had been made about his request to have his sidewalks repaired because of root lift. Chairman Schmitt went to his home and explained to him that the sidewalk was not our responsibility but directed him to the website for examples of ramping and diversions.

The Commission received an email from Ms. Wilkins of 535 Franklin Street. Her tree was inspected and it was determined that a trim was necessary. She was notified in February of our decision but the work has not been done yet and according to her, the tree has gotten worse as a result of recent weather. The email was forwarded on to John Fenimore. He responded that he felt the tree should be removed all together but requested that Mark take a look. He will attempt to trim it this week.

Mayor Fitzpatrick received a letter from the Arbor Day Foundation which was forwarded on to the DSTC. It was to congratulate Delanco for being named a Tree City USA Community for 2009.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.