

Delanco Shade Tree Commission

770 Coopertown Road - Delanco, NJ 08075

Delanco Shade Tree Commission

Agenda of Regular Meeting

March 24, 2010

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Schmitt, at 7:08 P.M.

Flag Salute

All those present participated in the flag salute.

Sunshine Statement

The Sunshine Statement was read aloud by Chairman Schmitt.

Roll Call

Members present at the meeting were: Chairman Schmitt, Vice Chairman Taraschi, Mr. Matulewicz, Mr. Lacina, Mr. Atkinson, Mrs. Braun, Mrs. Lubeck, and Township Liaison Mrs. Hinkle,

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of February 24, 2010.

A motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 24, 2010 was made by Mr. Matulewicz, and seconded by Vice Chairman Taraschi. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Public Forum

Helen Hamlin, who resides at 1209 Burlington Ave., attended the meeting to inquire about a tree in front of her home that she believes is full of mushrooms and is lifting the sidewalk. Since it is on Burlington Ave. and that is a County road, she was referred to contact them about her removal request.

Chairman Schmitt stated that he would put a call into the County to see if the STC could acquire the name and number of a contact person to be used in similar cases should they come up in the future.

Old Work

Morris - 424 Kansas Avenue - Vice Chairman 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.

New Work

Ridgeway- 301 Holly Street

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.

De La Pena- 2828 Goucher Ave.

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 case was assigned to Mr. Atkinson.

McNeil/Gereaghty- 410 Third Street

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.

Additional Requests Addressed

Renson-230 Center Ave.

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 case was assigned to Mr. Atkinson.

Sevey-601 Vine Street

Homeowner request was sent to Vice Chairman Taraschi via email. It states that the tree appears dead and is dropping a significant amount of branches. Homeowner is looking for a removal and also a possible new tree planting.

Mr. Matulewicz stated that there was a lot of deadwood present and that the tree should be removed. The request was sent on to the PWD and a letter was sent to the homeowner informing them of our determination.

Open Forum

Mrs. Anne Lubeck attended the meeting and expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Commission. She also proposed the idea of periodically putting a small article from the STC into the Newton Landing's Newsletter.

Arbor Day activities were discussed at length. Chairman Schmitt stated that he was putting together a worksheet geared toward Kindergarten and 1st graders. He also plans on going to M. Joan Pearson School and reading "The Lorax" to the children and then donating the book to the school. It was also discussed that we needed a proclamation to be read by the Mayor.

The Commission discussed possible locations for new plantings and Mrs. Hinkle suggested that we take money out of the Shade Tree budget in order to fund these new trees. It was agreed that six new trees would be planted. Chairman Schmitt proposed that one could be planted in front of his home. Mr. Matulewicz made the suggestion that we put all 6 of the new plantings on the same street with the possibility of using 2 different species. Richards Ave. was proposed for this, considering two homeowners on this street have already requested trees (Mr. Trout and Mr. Taylor). Another alternative discussed was planting crape myrtles between the new plantings already on West Ave.

It was reported by Mr. Matulewicz that he was in contact with the Community Forestry Division and that they needed a resolution submitted by the STC before the grant money that we were awarded could be turned over.

Mr. Atkinson reported that he looked into some of the CEU courses from the list that had been provided to us, but was still waiting for a response from our contact.

Vice Chairman Taraschi agreed to host a barbeque again this Summer for the members of the STC and Town Council.

Correspondence

Letters were sent to Mr. Wilkins (535 Franklin St.) and Mr. Guerra (854 Pennsylvania Ave) advising them that a tree trimming work order was sent to PWD. A letter was sent to Mr. Thomas (635 Laurel) advising him that his request has been denied until the tree leafs out in the Spring. A final letter was sent to Mr. Morris (424 Kansas) letting him know that his request had been received, but that it was tabled until more measurements could be taken.

An email was sent to Todd Wyckoff giving him an updated Representative list for the DSTC.

Paperwork was received from the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation. It included a bill for the Municipal Membership for 2010 and also an Active Membership Roster Report to complete and return.

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.