

Delanco Shade Tree Commission

770 Coopertown Road - Delanco, NJ 08075

Delanco Shade Tree Commission

Agenda of Regular Meeting

February 24, 2010

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:16 by Vice Chairman Taraschi

Flag Salute

Sunshine Statement

Please be advised that proper notice of this meeting has been given in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L., Chapter 231, in the following manner: Written notice has been advertised in the Burlington County Times, and the Courier Post, and published in their December 28, 2009 edition. Notice of this meeting has also been posted on the Township Bulletin Board and in the Township calendar that is available to homeowners.

Roll Call

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

Chairman Schmitt and Mr. Lacina were not in attendance.

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of January 27,2010

A motion to approve the minutes from the Regular meeting of January 27, 2010 was made by Mr. Matulewicz, and seconded by Mr. Atkinson. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Public Forum

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

Old Work

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.

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 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.

Thomas - 635 Laurel Street - Chairman Schmitt & Mr. Matulewicz

Homeowner stated that the tree in front of his house has been trimmed on many occasions, but that he would like for it to be removed. The email reports that he

believes the tree is dead and is angry because the branches are falling on the cars parked in the driveway.

Mr. Matulewicz inspected the property and felt that the two Sugar Maples were questionable with one being most likely dead and the other in distress. At the meeting, it was determined that a removal request would be sent to PWD. After the February meeting, Mr. Matulewicz revisited the address and reported that the tree the homeowner was referring to was an Ash on his property and not the Sugar Maple. Mr. Matulewicz sighted some dead wood, but no obvious indications of decay. The removal request was taken off of the list sent to PWD and the request has been tabled until the tree leafs out.

Denton (Land Engineering & Surveying Co.,Inc.)- Tieman Circle- Vice Chairman Taraschi

The developer would like to remove the tree located on the southwest corner of the property. He feels that the tree is dying and is being significantly damaged by a very large vine. The tree is indicated on approved plans and specifically cited to be saved. Mr. Taraschi inspected the tree and while he is of the opinion that the tree will bud in the Spring, he also believes that the Commission does not have jurisdiction over the tree and referred him to the Joint Land Use Board.

New Work

Usilton - 1023 Burlington Ave.

The homeowner is looking for the removal of the Oak tree in front of his property. He states that the limbs are continuously breaking off , they are entwined in the power lines and that the roots are causing sewer problems.

Both Chairman Schmitt and Vice Chairman Taraschi inspected the tree in question. It was determined that this particular tree is on a county road and is not under our jurisdiction. Vice Chairman Taraschi spoke with the homeowner via phone and explained this to him. The homeowner remembered having to deal with the county for an earlier removal and said he would take care of it.

Guerra - 854 Pennsylvania Ave.

The homeowner is seeking trimming or removal of the Sugar Gums to the left and right of her property. The homeowner feels that they are dying and that the falling branches are denting her vehicle.

Vice Chairman Taraschi inspected the Sweet Gums and found evidence of many broken branches and deadwood. The recommendation was for them to be submitted to PWD for trimming.

Open Forum

Mr. Matulewicz proposed getting a list from Mr. Fenimore on candidates for tree removals that the Township needs to outsource because of their size and difficulty. The intent would be to aid in these removals by offering to use some of the grant money that was awarded. Mr. Matulewicz also stated that he has a business selection form and would like to coordinate with PWD on how best to deal with this.

Mr. Atkinson stated that there were some CEU courses that were of interest to members of the DSTC and he was going to look into the cost and availability for a few of them.

Mr. Atkinson also brought to the attention of the members that the wrong tree was cut down at the Devinney residence (100 Union) and stated that he would send a email to the DSTC inbox on this matter.

Correspondence

An updated tree removal list for Public Works was sent to Mr. Fenimore .

The Tree City USA application for Recertification was submitted for the Commission by Chairman Schmitt.

Correspondence was received from Axten's Nursery and Landscape Supplies. They submitted a price list of the trees that they are currently growing and selling at their facility, and are interested in getting our business.

Mr. Matulewicz completed and sent out the Business Stimulus Fund 2009 Application for the grant discussed at January's meeting. The grant application was approved, and \$6,860 was awarded to Delanco Township. Mr. Matulewicz proposed to give \$5,000 to

PWD to help in the cost of tree removals with the rest going toward October training and CEU's.

An email was sent to Mrs. Pena-Bell who was requesting an update on a tree request that was submitted. Letters were mailed to all of the addresses contained in the tree removal spread sheet that was submitted to the Public Works Dept. to advise the homeowners of the impending removal of their trees.

A letter was also sent to Mr. Denton to address his request for the removal of a tree on existing approved plans. Mr. Taraschi advised him to seek the aid of the Joint Land Use Board as this is a matter for them to handle.

The Commission received a letter from Mrs. Anne Lubeck-Silverberg who has an interest in becoming a member. A letter was sent inviting her to an upcoming meeting and she also spoke with Chairman Schmitt. She will be joining our meeting in March.

Correspondence was received from Todd Wyckoff of the Division of Parks and Forestry. Enclosed was our year-end Community Forestry Report, a notice that CORE training would be held on Saturday April 10th in Paramus, NJ., and a list of recommended courses for Continuing Education Unit Credits for 2010.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn is made by Mr. Matulewicz, and seconded by Mr. Atkinson. The motion was carried unanimously with no abstentions.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.