



Delanco Shade Tree Commission

***Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 27, 2008***

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matulewicz at 7:15 P.M.

Flag Salute

The flag salute was conducted by all members present.

Sunshine Statement

The Sunshine Statement was read aloud by Chairman Matulewicz.

Roll Call

Members present at this meeting were: Chairman Matulewicz, Mr. Taraschi, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Lacina, Mrs. Towell and Township Liaison Mrs. Hinkle.

Mr. Lacina was introduced as the newest Commission member by Mrs. Hinkle, and followed the introduction with a brief history of himself.

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of September 26, 2007.

Motion to approve the Minutes from the meeting of September 26 2007 was deferred until the March 2008 meeting.

Approval of Minutes from Regular/ Reorganization Meeting of January 23, 2008.

Motion to approve the minutes from the Regular/Reorganization Meeting of January 23, 2008 was deferred until the March 2008 meeting.

Public Forum

Mr. Jack Hoefle of 44 Pennington Court was in attendance. He requested information regarding the status of replacement trees at Newton's Landing. He stated that he has two trees in need of replacement at this time. He said one tree

had been replaced and later died, and that another is diseased and needs replacement. Mr. Hoefle sought input from the Commission on the status of replacement trees and what action the Commission could take in this regard. He requested larger than original trees as the surrounding specimens would be much larger than replacement trees. (See reports.)

In a discussion among the Commission members, Mrs. Hinkle said that the Township had not taken control of the streets yet. Mr. Hoefle produced the original plan indicating the dead trees and two letters one from Glackin, Thomas Panzak, and one from Mr. Scibilia regarding the tree issues at Newton's Landing. Chairman Matulewicz requested the status of the 'punch list' from Pultie. Mrs. Hinkle said that she would obtain the list for Chairman Matulewicz. As to size of replacement trees, Chairman Matulewicz recommended smaller trees be installed as larger trees would be more prone to stress and failure.

Old Work

Vena - 607 Walnut Street - Chairman Matulewicz/Mrs. Towell

Mr. James Vena, of 607 Walnut Street was in attendance. He reports a tree in front of his residence is causing sidewalk and curb to heave, as well as drainage problems. He states that his homeowners insurance has been dropped as 'ramping' is no longer acceptable to his carrier. He also states that there is no room for a diversion on his property. Mr. Vena said that he would like the tree removed in order to install a new sidewalk, and that he preferred not to wait until January. Chairman Matulewicz said that he would look into this matter, and asked Mrs. Towell to place this case on the January agenda.

Chairman Matulewicz tabled this matter to February and asked Mrs. Towell to check the agenda cases through the Street Tree Inventory and list the results of each case on the agenda.

Note: Inventory reports tree #1 (furthest left of front door) to be a Norway Maple, DBH = 17, 0% dead wood, no curb or walk involvement, 3 ft. easement, low roadway clearance, do not replant.

Tree #2 - tree to right of #1 - Norway Maple, DBH = 17, 10% deadwood, root girdling, 3 ft. easement, no wires, low walk clearance.

Chairman Matulewicz checked these trees. He reports that the trees have root mass, are pushing out the curb, with minimal sidewalk heave. Mrs. Hinkle said that a section of Walnut Street is slated for repaving and she will notify Chairman Matulewicz as to the particulars, and whether or not these trees could be removed as part of this project.

Watson - 2830 Goucher Avenue - Mr. Taraschi

Homeowner's request reads: "Tree is raising my sidewalk also walkway to house is directly under tree lose limbs fall."

This specimen is reported by the homeowner to be in front of the house between sidewalk and curb.

Note: There was no tree associated with this address on the inventory. After review of Mr. Taraschi's pictures and report, this specimen was forwarded to Public Works for removal.

***Stazewski - 725 Chestnut Street - Chairman Matulewicz
Mr. Taraschi***

Homeowner's request reads: "Need tree removed because it drops berries (enormous amounts) and they eat away the paint on my new car. I do not have a driveway. My 2 sons park there also."

This specimen is reported to be: "Between sidewalk and curb to the left of my front door if you are standing in the street. I have no idea what type of tree it is. Could be Crabapple but never seen one so large."

Note: The only tree associated with this address on the inventory is to the left of front door, and is a Silver Maple, DBH = 29, 10% deadwood, no girdling, 5 ft. easement, no wire involvement.

Chairman Matulewicz and Mr. Taraschi inspected this tree, and found it to be healthy, with minimal sidewalk heave. After a discussion, the consensus of the Commission was to deny the homeowner's request.

Conrad - 207 Cedar Street - Mr. Taraschi & Mrs. Towell

Homeowner's report reads: "Large part of tree trunk hanging over st. and electric wire's. Trunk looks to be dead (or dying), bark is falling off."

The homeowner reports this tree to be an oak tree on Cedar Street.

Note: Two trees on the inventory are associated with this address. Tree #1, to the left of door is a Sweet Gum, DBH = 23, 10% deadwood, no curb/ walk involvement, no wires, trunk damage = 10%.

Tree #2 (to the right of tree #1) is a Red Maple, DBH = 17, 30% deadwood, no curb/ walk involvement, remove, no replant. (This tree should be down, as a tree at this residence was turned in to Public Works for removal in 2006.)

Mr. Taraschi and Mrs. Towell checked this specimen and recommend removal.

Mrs. Towell thought that the tree may be on private property and suggested a measurement to determine ownership. Chairman Matulewicz will, with Mr. Schmitt to measure the easement and confirm ownership.

***Myers - 405 Union Avenue - Chairman Matulewicz
Vice Chairman Hamlin***

Homeowners request reads: "Maple 2 trees from point on Ash."

Note: There is no listing for this address on the inventory.

Mrs. Towell checked this site. The tree in question was removed. The stump will be sent to Public Works for removal.

***McLaughlin - 409 Ash Street - Chairman Matulewicz
Mrs. Towell***

Homeowners request reads: "The tree is dying and large branches have fallen to the ground. The tree has pushed up the sidewalk and pushed out the curb. It is a gum tree that drops balls to the ground that create a hazard for pedestrians."

The homeowner reports the tree to be in front of the residence between the sidewalk and curb.

Note: Inventory Report - This Sweet Gum is to the left of front door, DBH =23, 30% deadwood, walk damage, 3 ft. easement, no wires, low road clearance.

Chairman Matulewicz and Mrs. Towell both inspected this specimen. With the high content of dead wood, sidewalk and curb heave, this tree was forwarded to Public Works for removal.

NEW WORK

Bollers - 703 Hickory

Mr. Bollers contacted Mrs. Towell by email regarding the two trees on the vacant lot at this address. He requests removal of one or both of the trees on the Walnut Street side of the property, but is open to any suggestions the Commission could offer as an alternative. Mrs. Towell sent Mr. Bollers an Action Request Form via email, advised him of the meeting time and date, and sent him via regular mail, a brochure regarding diversions.

Mrs. Hinkle will check to see if this property will be part of the Walnut Street reconstruction. Chairman Matulewicz, a member of JLUB, will check the owner's site plan and permits when they come before the Joint Land Use Board. Mrs. Hinkle will check the Walnut Street block grant to see if this property is included in it. Mrs. Towell will send the property owners a letter of explanation.

Brookover - 1610 Rivers Edge Drive

Homeowners report reads: "Tree on Rivers Edge Drive - taking up sidewalk and street." Request was marked "Emergency! Sidewalk and Street Lifting!!! Street Cracking!!!"

Tree Survey reads as follows: Site A: (Furthest left facing house.) Species: Silver Maple, Diameter 23, Deadwood 0%, Strip Width 2 feet, No wire involvement.

Comments are: No replant.

This case was assigned to Mr. Lacina.

Correspondence

Mrs. Towell sent Mrs. DiSibio the approved minutes from October 2007, and January 2008, the new Action Request Form, Mission Statement and updated list of trees forwarded to Public Works for action.

An updated list of trees was sent to Mr. Fenimore.

A postcard was sent to Mrs. Rohloff, advising her of the Commission's decision in her case.

Mrs. Towell received an email from Mr. Scibilia regarding a purchase order for his services. She forwarded his request to Mrs. DiSibio who then sent the order on to Mr. Scibilia. In her correspondence, Mrs. Towell also asked Mr. Scibilia about the advisability of securing the Most Magnificent plaque with a flexible cord. This reply was forwarded to the Commission members for consideration. At Chairman Matulewicz' request, the Inventory Master Plan was forwarded via email to all members. A copy of the Annual Accomplishment Report cover page was forwarded to Mayor Oullette for his signature.

Bring in Book for Trees for Mark L.

Mrs. Towell will bring in a spare book of Shade Trees for Mr. Lacina, and check with the Community Forestry Office for another book for Mrs. Hinkle.

Open Forum

We are still in need of a measurement at the Farko residence on Second Street (Chairman Matulewicz and Mr. Schmitt to check).

The Karaskas complaint.

"Most Magnificent" Plaque. Mrs. Towell needs to send this out for bids.

The Mission Statement was forwarded to Mrs. DiSibio for posting on the Township website, as was the new Action Request form.

Tree City Application and Arbor Day Proclamation. (April 25, 2008)

Mrs. Hinkle said she can work on a Proclamation and get a copy of the ordinance. Mrs. Towell said she could handle the publicity and an article for the Beverly Bee. Chairman Matulewicz will combine our budget with Public Works to determine the actual cost of tree maintenance for the Township. Chairman Matulewicz also said that he is working on the budget for 2008, and asking for six thousand dollars. Mrs. Hinkle remarked that she would like to have a member from Public Works as an advisor to the Commission. Chairman Matulewicz said he would give Mrs. Hinkle a copy of the Proclamation and budget.

Mr. Schmitt notified the Commission of his official resignation as he is relocating to Delran.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Towell, and seconded by Mr. Lacina. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Towell".

(Electronic Signature)

Barbara Towell, Secretary

Delanco Shade Tree Commission