



Delanco Shade Tree Commission

***Minutes of Regular Meeting
October 24, 2007***

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matulewicz at 7:05 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

Commission members present were: Chairman Matulewicz, Mr. Hamlin, Mr. Taraschi, Mrs. Towell, and Township Liaison, Mrs. Hinkle.

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

The minutes from the Meeting of September 26, 2007, were not approved.

Public Forum

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.

Old Work

Klinger - 509 Buttonwood Street

This request reads: "I just need a couple of limbs trimmed that hang into yard on one tree." The request states that the tree is in the alley behind the residence. This case was assigned to Chairman Matulewicz.

Chairman Matulewicz reports this Mulberry is in need of a trim He asked Mrs. Towell to refer this to Public Works for trimming.

Mullen - 8 John Street

Homeowner's request states no reason for request. As to location and type of tree, the request reads: "Maple tree/side street near dead end." This case was assigned to Mr. Taraschi.

Mr. Taraschi, supplying the Commission with a photograph and verbal report, states that this tree is dead.

This tree will be referred to Public Works for removal.

Snyder - 405 Maple Street

Homeowner's request reads: "This tree has been shedding leaves since July. We had someone look at it - and with the holes in the tree it has bores. Would like someone to look at it soon. Norway Maple - curb at 405 Maple Ave." This case was assigned to Mr. Hamlin.

After discussion among the group, it was decided to wait until this specimen leafs out in the spring before making a determination.

New Work

The following cases were forwarded to Commission members via email prior to this meeting.

Carideo - 304 Holly Street

The following was received via email: "Hi, There are 3 trees planted by the former owner on the easement section (between the sidewalk and the street). These trees have been slow growing due to the other large trees on the street. Apparently these trees have matured to the point that they have started to produce berries which are staining the finish on the cars. We think these trees are Mountain Ash. Because this is the only side of the street to park on, we would like to know if we can cut these trees down. They are a size that we can do it ourselves. Since the prior owner planted them, we were not sure if your permission was needed but felt we should ask just to be sure?"

Mrs. Towell was directed to forward these three young trees to Public Works for removal.

Rohloff - 2810 Goucher Avenue

Mrs. Rohloff's first request of 8/28/06 reads: "Tree roots have upset the walk. Branches almost reach the house. Roots in the lawn. I believe roots are in the sewer line. Tree is between curb and sidewalk. Not sure of type of tree."

On 02/28/07, this specimen was referred to Public Works for trimming.

Mrs. Rohloff's request of 10/12/2007 reads as follows: "The sidewalks is in very poor condition. I am afraid someone is going to be hurt. I am 81 years old and can't mix cement. I have asked some people to help me but they claim it is from the tree that the Township put in and I should not try to do it.

I don't want anyone to be hurt and sue me because I don't have any money."

This note was attached to a copy of the first request.

(Note: Mrs. Towell checked this tree on 10/15/07. The specimen shows evidence of having been trimmed for wires. There is also root girdling and approximately a 4" heave on one square of pavement, and minimal heave and drop over a few others. There is no room for a diversion due to a chain link fence. (There was also a sewer service at the residence.)

Chairman Matulewicz said that he would look at this specimen on November 17th.

Wolford - 401 West Avenue

Homeowner's request reads: "Tree was trimmed last year, but the tree is dead & I'm afraid it will fall on my car. 2nd tree on West Ave from corner near mailbox."

(Note: This tree was hit by a truck and trimmed afterward by Public Works. This specimen was checked by Mrs. Towell on 10/15/07. The tree doesn't appear to be dead, but does need a trimming of dead wood.)

Chairman Matulewicz asked Mrs. Towell to send this tree to Public Works for removal. Note: As of January 10, this specimen is down.

Ribeiro/Silva - 301 Creek Road

Homeowner's request reads: "We have lots of big trees in our land and we need to cut some of them to build another house." Location and Type of tree reads: "trees are located on their property they just want permission to cut."

(Note: Mrs. Towell called Ms. Ribeiro on 10/15/07, left a message that has no been returned as of 10/21/07.)

Chairman Matulewicz said that while these trees are outside the jurisdiction of the Shade Tree Commission, they may be within the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Protection. He directed Mrs. Towell to advise the homeowner to contact the DEP.

Correspondence

Mrs. Towell sent Mrs. DiSibio the approved meeting minutes for August 2007, and an updated list of trees forwarded to Public Works for action.

A postcard was sent to Mr. O'Sullivan advising him of the Commission's decision in his case.

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

The letter to Paul's Tree Service was sent.

A letter was sent to the J.S. Braddock Agency on behalf of Mrs. Shirley Pywell.

A letter was sent to Mrs. Pywell along with a copy of the letter to her insurance carrier.

The registration forms and a Payment Order for \$200 was sent to the NJ Shade Tree Federation for Mr. Hamlin and Mr. Fenimore to attend CORE classes at the Annual Meeting. This correspondence was sent via Priority Mail on 10/15/07.

Open Forum

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

The Karaskas complaint.

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

Mission Statement. Mrs. Towell re-sent her first draft of a mission statement to all Commission members and Mrs. Hinkle for their review and input.

Kevin to complete survey, will come down and look at Pywell's, and Dydek, and Vena (607 Walnut.) There was a discussion of the Tree City Application, i.e., the requirements of \$2 per capita, and a resolution for Arbor Day. Chairman Matulewicz would like to get the trees planted at the Walnut Street school before the end of the year, with recognition for same, and perform maintenance on existing trees. He suggests a half day event on Saturday, November 17 to perform maintenance and plant trees at Walnut Street School. He stated that he would speak to Superintendent Livingood regarding students assistance. He asked Mrs. Towell to compile a list of trees in need of minor maintenance.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Matulewicz and seconded by Mr. Taraschi. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:



(Electronic Signature)

Barbara Towell, Secretary

Delanco Shade Tree Commission

