



Delanco Shade Tree Commission

*Minutes of Regular / Reorganization Meeting
January 23, 2008*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Towell 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 Mrs. Towell.

Roll Call

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

Reorganization for 2008

Nomination for Chairman

Mr. Matulewicz was nominated for Chairman by Mrs. Towell. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Taraschi. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Mr. Matulewicz accepted the Chairmanship with the condition that the Vice Chair will assume some additional duties apart from the traditional role of acting in the absence of the Chairman.

From this point forward, Chairman Matulewicz presided.

Nomination for Vice Chairman

Mr. Hamlin was nominated for Vice Chairman by Mrs. Towell. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Taraschi. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Nomination for Secretary

Mrs. Towell was nominated for Secretary by Mr. Taraschi. Mr. Hamlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Motion for Commission Solicitor

Mr. Taraschi made a motion to appoint Mr. Kearns as Solicitor to the Commission. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Towell. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Mrs. Hinkle said she would obtain the address of Mr. Kearns so that Mrs. Towell could notify him.

Motion for Consultant to the Commission

Mrs. Towell made a motion to appoint Mr. Scibilia for the position of Consultant to the Commission. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Hamlin. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Mrs. Towell is to send Mr. Scibilia a letter to notify him of his appointment.

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

After a discussion among the membership, it was decided to table this matter until the February meeting.

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of October 24, 2007.

Motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 24, 2007 was made by Mr. Taraschi, and seconded by Vice Chairman Hamlin. The motion was carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Public Forum

As no members of the public were present, the meeting was closed to the public.

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.

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 11/17/07.

After a discussion among the members, and a review of Mrs. Towell's report of 10/15/07, Mr. Taraschi made a motion to refer this specimen to Public Works for removal. Mrs. Towell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Watson - 2830 Goucher Avenue

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.

This case was assigned to Mr. Taraschi.

Note: There was no tree associated with this address on the inventory.

Stazewski - 725 Chestnut Street

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."

This case was assigned to Chairman Matulewicz and Mr. Taraschi.

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

Conrad - 207 Cedar Street

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.

This case was assigned to Mrs. Towell and Mr. Taraschi

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.)

Myers - 405 Union Avenue

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

This case was assigned to Chairman Matulewicz and Vice Chairman Hamlin.

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

McLaughlin - 409 Ash Street

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.

This case was assigned to Chairman Matulewicz and Mrs. Towell

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.

Correspondence

Mrs. Towell sent Mrs. DiSibio the schedule for 2008, and an updated list of trees forwarded to Public Works for action.

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

Mrs. Towell sent Mrs. Lohr the Schedule for 2008, and received confirmation that the Public Notice advertisements were placed in the Burlington County Times

and Courier Post in the January 18, 2008 editions. Mrs. Lohr also posted the schedule on the bulletin board at the Township Building. Postcards were sent to Mr. Klinger, Mr. Mullen, Mr. Snyder, and Ms. Carideo advising them of the Commission's decision in their cases. Ms. Ribeiro was sent a letter advising her that the Commission does not have jurisdiction with regard to her trees, and advising her to contact the DEP.

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 as was agreed upon by the members, with the exception of the header change.

The members agreed to implement the new Action Request form. There was discussion regarding making it available on line.

Chairman Matulewicz reported that Mr. Scibilia is to complete the last phase of the Street Tree Survey. He is to check on Pywell, Dydek, and Vena when he comes in for a consultation. He also reported that he received an email from Mr. Scibilia containing a draft of the master plan, street tree inventory and Community Forestry Management Plan. He has sent them to Mrs. Towell for her review and for her to forward to the rest of the Commission.

An invoice for \$4000 from Mr. Scibilia, for completion of the Inventory and Community Forestry Management Plan was received. This invoice is to be split between the 2007 and 2008 budgets as there is not enough left over in the 07 budget to cover the invoice.

Correspondence from the State was received regarding the Community Forestry Management plan. The Commission has until the end of 2008 to complete the plan. Chairman Matulewicz said that Mr. Scibilia can complete the report for a fee of \$1000.00. Mr. Scibilia will send a file to Chairman Matulewicz.

The Commission has been offered three new trees to be planted on the east side easement of the Walnut Street School, by Mr. Livingood. Chairman Matulewicz said that we will have to take delivery of the trees by March fifth, so that they can be planted in conjunction with an Arbor Day event.

The Mission Statement was accepted by the Commission with the only change being the newly elected Vice Chairman.

The Community Forestry Report status has been approved and the Commission will have to submit a new plan by the end of the year. The Commission remains completely covered, and must submit a new accomplishment report by 02/15/08.

Mrs. Towell said she would like to make application for Tree City Status. She will obtain the application. Vice Chairman Hamlin and Mr. Taraschi offered to

help with the application. Mrs. Towell said that the Commission would need an Arbor Day Proclamation from the Township and an event to recognize Arbor Day. Chairman Matulewicz suggested using the planting at the Walnut Street School as our Arbor Day event. Mrs. Towell will check the National Arbor Day Foundation for a date.

There was a discussion of removal of trees at the Price residence on Burlington Avenue. Mrs. Hinkle reports that Mr. Price will make application to the Commission regarding these trees.

Chairman Matulewicz reports 798 vacant tree sites throughout the Township. He said that the Commission should take the initiative with contractors for street projects, and that any new streetscapes should conform to the management plan.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Matulewicz, and seconded by Vice Chairman Hamlin. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:



(Electronic Signature)

Barbara Towell, Secretary

Delanco Shade Tree Commission