



Delanco Shade Tree Commission

***Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 25, 2007***

Call to Order

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

Flag Salute

The Flag Salute was conducted by all members and guests.

Sunshine Statement

The Sunshine Statement was read aloud by Chairman Matulewicz.

Roll Call

Members present at this meeting were: Chairman Matulewicz, Vice Chairman Schmitt, Mr. Taraschi, Mr. Hamlin, and Mrs. Towell.

Also present at this meeting were Mrs. Hinkle, Township Liaison, and Mr. Corcoran, Township Administrator.

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of March 28, 2007.

Motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of March 28 2007 was made by Vice Chairman Schmitt and seconded by Mr. Hamlin.

The motion to approve the minutes was passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Public Forum

Mr. Schneider of 208 Delview Lane was present to discuss his case.

Old Work

***REIDY - 425 West Avenue - Chairman Matulewicz and Vice
Chairman Schmitt***

“We have a tree in front of our house that is lifting our sidewalk and is also tearing up the street and it impacts the on the flow of water into the sewer. Our neighbors recently had their tree removed. Since PSE&G have to come out for their stump; it makes sense to me that they could save a trip and do our tree ASAP. Thank you.” This case was originally assigned to Mrs. Jacobs and Mrs. McMaster, and then reassigned to Mr. Browne after the departure of Mrs. Jacobs. Mrs. McMaster was also to check this tree. Mr. Browne deferred this matter until the January meeting. With the departure of Mr. Browne, this matter has been further deferred to the February meeting. With Mrs. McMaster’s resignation, this case has been reassigned to Chairman Matulewicz and Vice Chairman Schmitt. Chairman Matulewicz stated that this tree has been removed.

ROSS – 201 Magnolia Lane – Chairman Matulewicz and Vice Chairman Schmitt

“Oak – Magnolia Lane (dead tree).”

Mr. Browne was to re-inspect this tree. This case was also assigned to Mrs. McMaster. Mrs. McMaster is not sure which tree the homeowner is referring to. She said that she will re-inspect the property. This matter was tabled until the February meeting. With the departure of Mrs. McMaster, this case was reassigned to Chairman Matulewicz and Vice Chairman Schmitt. This tree was inspected by Chairman Matulewicz. He states that the oak tree looks dead. This case will be forwarded to Public Works for removal.

MOYER – 726 Pennsylvania Avenue – Mrs. Towell

Homeowner requests removal of tree. His request states: “Tree is rotting, branches are falling on our cars.”

This case was assigned to Mrs. Towell who reported the following: This maple is clearly in decline, and shows evidence of brittle bark and broken branches. She states the trimming this specimen would result in leaving only two viable branches. She reports that the specimen exhibits deterioration at the top and hollowing in the trunk. She also reports that the roots of the tree were cut at one time, and there is ant infestation. She reports that there are two healthy trees within 20 feet of this specimen, and recommends removal by Public Works. Chairman Matulewicz and the rest of the Commission looked at Mrs. Towell’s report, and agreed unanimously that this specimen should be forwarded to Public Works for removal.

THOMAS – 635 Laurel Street – Mrs. Towell

Homeowner requests removal of this ash tree and states that it barely leafed out last season.

Chairman Matulewicz read Mrs. Towell’s report as did the rest of the Commission. The Commission decided by a unanimous vote to refer to Public

Works for removal, the tree in the front of the residence and the Ginkgo on Walnut Street side of the house.

New Work

SCHNEIDER - 208 Delview Lane

Resident's request states: "Sidewalk in front of the house is raised at dangerous and uneven levels due to two trees and the protruding roots." The homeowner reports that these two trees are oaks, located at in the easement.

Note: Mr. Schneider appeared at the March meeting and requested removal of these trees. Chairman Matulewicz asked all members to inspect these trees. Mrs. Towell inspected these trees, and found two large oaks with heavy wire involvement, as well as significant sidewalk heave. Her report states that the trees lean slightly and that she saw no evidence of insect infestation, hollowing, or damaged bark. She reports minor blow down and about 10% dead wood. Her report states that the lot is heavily wooded, and that there is room for diversion. She recommends referring these trees to Public Works for trimming.

After discussion with Mr. Schneider, Chairman Matulewicz deferred this matter until the May meeting. Mr. Taraschi stated that he will prepare a brief with regard to tripping hazards. Vice Chairman Schmitt is to inspect this tree also. The cost of pavers was discussed and Mr. Schneider was advised of the paver sites. The cost of the job to the homeowner was discussed. Mr. Schneider said his biggest problem was with insurance. This item will appear on the May agenda.

DELANCO FEDERAL SAVINGS - 615 Burlington Avenue

Request states "Tree is rotting - top is falling over. Union Avenue side (2nd tree in from driveway).

Mrs. Towell inspected this tree and reports the specimen shows evidence of having been trimmed to accommodate power lines, and broken limbs. Her report states that there is heavy electrical involvement and that the specimen appears to be relatively healthy. Her report states that there is no evidence of hollowing or insect infestation, no sidewalk heave, and minimal curb heave. She reports that the specimen exhibits minor root girdling, and appears to have approximately 5% dead wood. She recommends this specimen be forwarded to Public Works for trimming. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Schmitt and seconded by Mr. Taraschi to refer this case to Public works for trimming. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

LOUCK - 625 Second Street - Case not on agenda

Homeowner states in his request: "Swamp Maple on Walnut Street has completely destroyed my sidewalk and I would like it removed before I replace

the sidewalk. It is also tangled in my power wires and has caused at least one trip and fall accident.”

This case was assigned to Mr. Taraschi and Mr. Hamlin. After a brief discussion, Vice Chairman Schmitt and Mrs. Towell agreed to go out and look at this specimen with Mr. Hamlin and Mr. Taraschi on May 02, 2007.

Correspondence

Mrs. Towell sent an updated Membership list to Mrs. DiSibio along with a copy of the most recently approved minutes.

Membership for the New Jersey State Shade Tree Federation was completed and submitted to the Township for payment.

Letter to Mr. Thomas approved at the March meeting was sent.

Letter to Paul’s tree service has been drafted and is ready for approval, pending revisions by Chairman Matulewicz.

Open Forum

Vice Chairman Schmitt presented further information on Citilog and states that we would need a place for storage. He provided the Commission with an information packet and stated that Citilog will take any kind of wood. He is of the opinion that we should meet with Public Works on this issue. He states that more information will be forthcoming.

There was a general discussion of funding. Mrs. Hinkle suggests we contact Hovnanian and J2 with regard to developers who are going to remove trees. 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 said that she had not sent this out for estimates at this time and that she would work on a Certificate for the winner (s) and draft a design for a nomination form.

Mrs. Hinkle wrote a newspaper article that appeared in the Beverly Bee regarding the Shade Tree Seminar that was held in February. Vice Chairman Schmitt proposed quarterly articles.

Status of State accreditation/Status and Liability. Chairman Matulewicz to provide the Commission with further information.

The invoice from Mr. Fenimore for aerial training is on hold.

Mr. Corcoran, the Township Administrator, advised the Commission of several matters i.e., Pulte wants us to trim and remove trees at Newton’s. Mr. Corcoran said that he is thinking of not taking control of Newton’s for this reason and budgetary concerns. He stated that tree care is expensive to the Township. He asked the Commission to think of ways to reduce costs. Mr. Heinhold advised Mr. Corcoran of a decision regarding snow and ice, and sidewalk repair. Mr. Corcoran said that we may have to look at other means to accomplish tree

removal and trimming by adopting new ordinances over time. He stated that many Townships are not involved in street trees. Mr. Corcoran said that about 40% of Public Works time is spent on trees. Mr. Corcoran said that he had corresponded with Mr. Thomas and advised him of the Township Code. He says we should find a way to help the homeowners with regard to their street trees. There was a discussion amongst the Commission, Mrs. Hinkle and Mr. Corcoran regarding possible options for ordinances. Mr. Corcoran stated that we have been removing a lot of street trees, and not replacing them. He stated that for homeowners who ask, we can give them a tree. Chairman Matulewicz brought up the Community Forestry Management program, and Mr. Corcoran asked for a copy. Mrs. Towell was tasked to make sure Mr. Corcoran receives a copy of the Program. Mr. Corcoran gave the Commission members a copy of his correspondence file with Mr. Thomas.

Issues of Liability were discussed. Chairman Matulewicz said that the Community Forestry Act provides protection.

Mr. Corcoran discussed some gray areas in coverage with the Commission and said he would like to see the Commission better protected, and that JIF is looking into this aspect of coverage.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Towell, and seconded by Mr. Taraschi. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Minutes prepared by:



(Electronic Signature)

Barbara Towell, Secretary

Delanco Shade Tree Commission