



***Delanco Shade Tree Commission***

***Minutes of Regular Meeting  
June 27, 2007***

***Call to Order***

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matulewicz at 7:13 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***

Commission members present at this meeting: Chairman Matulewicz, Vice Chairman Schmitt, Mr. Taraschi, and Mrs. Towell.

Township Liaison Mrs. Hinkle was also present.

***Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of May 23, 2007.***

Motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 23, 2007 was made by Mrs. Towell, and seconded by Vice Chairman Schmitt.

The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

***Public Forum***

Mrs. Smith, of 1113 Burlington Avenue, was in attendance, and asked if her application to have a Maple tree on Maple Avenue could be expedited in order to facilitate the installation of new sidewalks and curbing at her residence. Mrs. Smith and Chairman Matulewicz discussed what would cause the tree to be removed. A discussion followed and the case was assigned to Vice Chairman Schmitt and Mr. Taraschi. Mrs. Towell is requested to send Mrs. Smith notice of the Commission's decision via email.

Mrs. Fink, of 2926 Colgate Avenue was also present and requested to have a dead tree on public property removed from behind her residence. This tree was previously trimmed by Mr. Fenimore. Chairman Matulewicz said that he would inspect this tree and have word for Mrs. Fink at the July meeting. Mrs. Towell will email Mrs. Fink the decision of the Commission.

### *Old 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.

At the May meeting, the Commission members, all of whom inspected the trees, agree that they are in good health, and cutting the roots to accommodate a level sidewalk, would render the trees unstable. Public Service has been notified with regard to hanging limbs. Mr. Schneider looked at pavers, and stated that the trees he looked at don't appear to have the root problem that he has. Vice Chairman Schmitt asked about diversions, but the homeowner stated that he doesn't want to divert. Mr. Taraschi said that trees appear healthy, and that they shouldn't be taken down. He reviewed the material the Commission went over with Mr. Schneider at last meeting in an effort to seek a resolution. Chairman Matulewicz stated that it would cost the Township about four thousand dollars to remove the trees, and also said he was checking with Freehold regarding a cost share program whereby the township shares the cost of replacing the sidewalk with the homeowner. There was a discussion among the Commission regarding the state ordinances, and a way to help the homeowner. Chairman Matulewicz stated that there are two sycamores on the property so that if the oaks were removed, the canopy will remain. Vice Chairman Schmitt asked if the homeowner had any inclination regarding keeping the trees. Chairman

Matulewicz asked the homeowner if he would be willing to cost share with the difference with us. Mr. Taraschi gave a general overview regarding the liability issue. Vice Chairman Schmitt said this decision should be made and Mr. Taraschi moved to consider this issue in closed session. Vice Chairman Schmitt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

In closed session, after discussion, the Commission voted unanimously not to remove the trees.

Immediately prior to the meeting, Chairman Matulewicz spoke with Mr. Schneider and advised him of the Commission's decision.

### ***DESANTE -615 Hickory Street***

Request reads: "I am allergy to bees and pollen the tree blooms with flowers and bees swarm in the tree." A Doctor's prescription saying that Mr. DeSante is allergic to bees was included with the request.

This case was assigned to Vice Chairman Schmitt.

Vice Chairman Schmitt inspected this tree. He reports that this 2 ½ story tree is healthy with no deadwood. The request to remove this tree was denied.

Mrs. Towell is to notify the homeowner by postcard.

### ***New Work***

#### ***SMITH - 1113 Burlington Avenue***

An email was received stating the following: "We are replacing sidewalk and curb on the Maple Ave side of our house at 1113 Burlington Ave and need to have a tree removed. The tree is leaning toward Maple Ave and cutting the roots that are buckling the sidewalk will leave it in danger of blowing over. One side of the tree is charred from a lightning strike. We hope to begin concrete work as soon as possible. Please let me know how long I should allow for removal of the tree. Thanks, Jean and Dave Smith."

(An email response was sent to the Smith's by Mrs. Towell explaining to them that their case will be assigned at the June meeting, then inspected and most likely decided upon at the July meeting. A scanned Request Form was attached to the email and the homeowner was asked to deliver or mail it to the Township Building.) This matter was addressed under Public Forum.

#### ***EMERY - 225 Willow Street***

"Remove tree & root, tree is ¾ dead, between curb and sidewalk. Maple tree in front of house."

This case was assigned to Chairman Matulewicz.

### ***TENTILUCCI – 4 Edward Avenue***

“Some branches broken – falling from tree – tree is already dead. Front – center of property.”

This case was assigned to Chairman Matulewicz.

### ***TRIMBLE – 430 Perkins Lane***

This request was marked “Urgent-Danger!!!” “2 trees on twp property next to mine. One is completely dead & could take out my electrical main or fall across Perkins into power lines. Both trees have dead limbs overhanging sidewalks where kids walk to school. Twp. property – 2 oaks.”

This case was assigned to Vice Chairman Schmitt and Mr. Tasaschi.

### ***Correspondence***

Mrs. Towell sent Mrs. DiSibio a copy of the most recently approved minutes and an updated list of trees forwarded to Public Works for action.

Postcards were sent to homeowners advising them of the Commission’s determination of their cases.

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

Membership cards from the New Jersey State Shade Tree Federation were received and distributed.

Letter to Paul’s tree service has been drafted and is ready for approval. This item was deferred until June and Chairman Matulewicz asked Mrs. Towell to re-send the letter to him.

Mrs. Towell is to send letter to Mr. Wycoff regarding the Community Forestry Management Plan. (Awaiting input from Chairman Matulewicz.) Chairman Matulewicz reports that this letter is now unnecessary, as he has spoken with Mr. Wycoff.

An invoice from Mr. Scibilia was received regarding evaluation of the trees at the Zurbrugg Mansion. This invoice was given to Mrs. Hinkle for payment by the Township. Mrs. Towell will send Mr. Scibilia an email advising him of same.

Another invoice from Mr. Scibilia will be forthcoming for his evaluation of the trees at Newton’s Landing. Mrs. Towell was advised that this bill should be forwarded to the Township for payment .

There was a brief discussion of Chairman Matulewicz’ walk through at Newton’s Landing with Mr. Scibilia, including mulching issues, and the possible removal of some trees.

There was a discussion of a proposed new ordinance for the management of the Township’s shade trees, and probable input from the Township Committee.

Among the points discussed were involvement of the homeowner, some of the oldest trees being located in the more modest neighborhoods, possible loss of quality control with regard to removal and planting of trees, liability issues, and maintenance standards.

### ***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.

Status of State accreditation/Status and Liability. This item can be removed from future agendas as it has been resolved.

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

There was a discussion regarding the history of the Shade Tree Commission involving Committeewoman Fitzpatrick (who was in the building on another mater). Committeewoman Fitzpatrick researched the Township ordinances and found the Commission’s creation to be October 12, 1971.

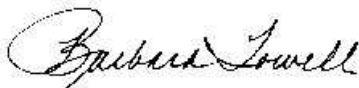
A discussion of a mission statement was held. Mrs. Towell said she would put together a proposed statement for input by the rest of the Commission.

### ***Adjournment***

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Schmitt, and seconded by Mr. Taraschi. The motion was carried unanimously with no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Minutes prepared by:



(Electronic Signature)

Barbara Towell, Secretary

Delanco Shade Tree Commission