



Delanco Shade Tree Commission

***Minutes of Regular Meeting
August 22, 2007***

Call to Order

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

Flag Salute

The flag salute was conducted.

Sunshine Statement

The Sunshine Statement was read aloud by Chairman Matulewicz.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of June 27, 2007.

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of June 27, 2007 was made by Mr. Hamlin and seconded by Mrs. Towell. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous with no abstentions.

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of July 25, 2007.

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of July 25 2007 Was made by Mrs. Towell and seconded by Mr. Hamlin. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous with no abstentions.

Public Forum

There was no Public Forum.

Old Work

TENTILUCCI – 4 Edward Avenue – Chairman Matulewicz

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

This case was deferred until August. Mrs. Towell and Chairman Matulewicz checked this tree, and found the tree itself gone, with only the stump remaining.

TRIMBLE – 430 Perkins Lane – V.C. Schmitt and Mr. Taraschi

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.”

Vice Chairman Schmitt reported that he was unable to determine which two oak trees the homeowner was referring to in his request. (Members of the Commission visited this residence after the meeting and were unable to ascertain which trees the homeowner was referring to. The homeowner was not at home for the Commission to ask. Mrs. Towell is to send Mr. Trimble a letter requesting clarification.

Mr. Trimble spoke with Chairman Matulewicz and Mrs. Towell before the meeting and identified the two trees in his request with a picture. These two trees are in the easement in front of the drainage pond. The tree closest to the residence has dropped nearly all its leaves and will be forwarded to Public Works for removal.

In conjunction with this matter, there was also a discussion as to whether Perkins Lane is a County thoroughfare. Mrs. Hinkle will check to see if this street belongs to the County or the Township

PALM – 2912 Colgate Avenue – Mrs. Towell

“Tree in front of house is rotting & decaying. Also is pushing out curb. In front of house. This case was assigned to Mrs. Towell.

Mrs. Towell inspected this tree, and per her report, this tree had fairly healthy growth on the top. She reports that the base of the tree has significant hollowing and that she was able to insert a stick approximately one foot into the bottom of the tree. After a review of the pictures, it was unanimously decided to refer this tree to the Township for removal.

New Work

FINK – 2901 Colgate Avenue

Mrs. Towell inspected these trees and found the following: The Norway Maple closest to the hydrant on West is approximately 40% dead with significant root heave and minimal sidewalk heave over 4 flags. This tree has been on the watch list since 2005. She recommends removal of this tree.

The second tree inspected on this request is a Norway maple. This tree has one dead limb that needs to be removed. Apart from that, Mrs. Towell reports that the specimen shows minor root girdling, minimal sidewalk heave, and exhibits less than 10% dead wood. Her report recommends trimming of this specimen. By unanimous consent, the tree closest to the hydrant was recommended to Public Works for removal and the second tree from the corner for trimming.

O'Sullivan -511 Ash Street.

The homeowner's request reads: "Tree is dying & dropping limbs on truck." This case was assigned to Chairman Matulewicz.

Correspondence

Mrs. Towell sent Mrs. DiSibio an updated list of trees forwarded to Public Works for action.

A Postcard was sent to Mr. Emery advising him of the Commission's decision in his case.

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

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. This item was tabled until September.

The letter regarding the proposed new ordinance was discussed. Mrs. Towell was asked to prepare the letter for the Chairman's signature, so that it can be sent to the Township Committee, Mayor and Mr. Corcoran.

Mrs. Fink was notified by email regarding the Commission's decision to remove the tree behind her residence.

A letter was sent to Mr. and Mrs. Smith as confirmation of the Commission's decision to remove the tree from the Maple Street side of their residence and reflecting the verbal agreement between Mr. Smith and the Commission members to plant a replacement sugar maple on his property.

A letter was sent to Mr. Trimble requesting clarification of the trees he is concerned with in his request.

Mrs. Towell gave Mr. Hamlin his NJ Shade Tree Federation Card.

CORE training material from the State was received and discussed.

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 created a first draft of a mission statement and distributed it to all Commission Members and Mrs. Hinkle for their review and input.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Towell and seconded by Mr. Hamlin. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Matulewicz at 7:55 PM.

Minutes prepared by:

A cursive electronic signature of Barbara Towell.

(Electronic Signature)

Barbara Towell, Secretary
Delanco Shade Tree Commission