

BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2018

Present: W.R. Comery, S. Dahl, K. Raschen, B. Keppler, C. Hittel, J. Sexton, D. Minervini, D. Preis, M. Ivanicki, A. Les, C. DiPiazza, H. Tedesco Santos

Public:

Absent: J. Payoczkowski

K. Raschen called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and stated that this meeting of the Shade Tree & Parks Commission, as required, has been made public and posted at Borough Hall.

The floor was opened for nominees. A motion was made to nominate W.R. Comery as the chairperson by D. Pries, seconded by M. Ivanicki. All in favor.

A motion was made by C. Hittel to appoint D. Pries to vice chairman, seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor.

W.R. Comery then welcomed our new liaisons to the commission and stated that he looks forward to working with them and teaching them about what we do for the town.

W.R. Comery asked for a motion to approve last month's minutes. Motion made by D. Preis, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor.

Superintendent's Report:

Total number of service requests: I full year end report will be provided in February, but the total number of service requests in 2017 is 1,260. These include trimming, sidewalks, roots in the lawn, and all other residential inquiries.

Total number of streets trimmed: K. Raschen explained to the commission that when we go to a single street to do one service request, we end up getting calls from half of their neighbors. Therefore, the crews have been trimming streets in their entireties that need attention. To date, 44 whole streets have been trimmed. The tree foreman is doing an excellent job; all of Route 4 and Route 17 have been completed as well. Four additional streets have been completed in 2018.

Fall Tree Planting: All trees are in the ground and planted excluding 8 at the Goddard School. We called for mark outs but they were never done, which delayed us. It will have to be remarked and planted in the spring 2018.

307 South Drive: The developer working on this project was in last month's meeting regarding an address on Addison Street. The next day, a call came in from 305 South Drive about a town tree being cut. K. Raschen and J. Sexton went to the location and issued a summons to the company doing the work. They have already been to municipal court for the same issue on Circle Drive in the past, so they were already aware the tree shouldn't have been touched. The court date is rescheduled for the 22nd, and no payment plan will be offered to the company like the last time this happened.

Tyler O'Connor: Tyler started January 2nd, he must get his CDL in order to complete his probationary period. K. Raschen stated he will get an honest evaluation of his work before his probation comes to an end.

Gourmanoff: The store opened before they had a TCO, a \$150,000 performance bond is being held. We still need a landscape plan to be provided, we have issues with the current conditions and the borough engineer has issues with the irrigation. IT must be brought up to spec.

Authorization to Pay Bills: Motion to pay bills was made D. Preis, seconded by M. Ivanicki. All in favor.

Assistant Superintendent's Report:

Sidewalks 2017: All locations to be done are now current. 134 locations have been completed, 23 are marked, and once the weather breaks the contractor will be able to start right up again. Diamond Construction has been doing a great job and any small issues we've had have been rectified.

Roots in the Lawn: The list for roots in the lawn is near completion. 53 locations are complete, 37 are pending and we have the hold harmless for 30 of those 37. This list is up to date and any backlogged addresses have been completed.

2018 Tree Recovery Campaign: Making progress to issue seedlings to reforest local towns for the 5th year in a row now. Our garage will be the distribution site for the region as long as the commission allows usage of garage. It's a very successful program, on April 19th all towns who are participating will come and pick up their trees. This is just in time for earth day and it's a great program to do. Use of garage motion made by D. Pries, seconded by B. Keppler.

2017 Annual Reports: J. Sexton told the commission that we are approaching our 42nd year in Tree City USA. We are one of two in this county who has had it for such a long time. Having Tree City USA indemnifies the borough from lawsuits. Our accomplishment report was also prepared, and the staff will be participating in a webinar for it. The report will go to administration once complete.

Parks: The Besen Bridge is installed, looks great, and is awaiting the family ceremony. Petruska's playground is also coming along well. They are doing a poured in place rather than mulch for the base of the playground area.

Agenda-

Notice of Violation-

Chairman's Report-

General- S. Dahl passed around the new meeting dates for 2018. All were ok'd as well as the combined July/August meeting. The July date needed to be changed to the 18th in order to avoid a conflict with a Mayor and Council meeting.

Land use/ Zoning- K. Raschen wanted to note that many curb cuts are coming in without showing the tree on the property, or showing it correctly. Some also show removals. If curb cuts like this come into the office, they are not being approved.

Old Business-

New Business-

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:03 pm by D. Pries, Seconded by D. Minervini