

## BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

### MEETING MINUTES

December 9, 2020

**Present:** K. Raschen, B. Keppler, D. Preis, A. Les, D. Minervini, C. Hittel, M. Ivanicki, C. DiPiazza, J. Vartolone

**Absent:** J. Sexton, W.R. Comery

D. Preis called the meeting to order at 7:54 p.m. once there was a full quorum, and stated that this meeting of the Shade Tree & Parks Commission, as required, has been made public and posted at Borough Hall. Roll call was taken.

D. Preis asked for a motion to approve last month's minutes. Motion made by B. Keppler, seconded by M. Ivanicki. All in favor.

#### **Public:**

Mrs. Stillman; 111 Willowbrook Court- D.Preis stated K. Raschen and himself checked the location together and agree that the tree will be marked for removal. Mrs. S – thank you so much! She added it is not cosmetic, she needs to re-do her driveway and some other things, and she is very grateful for the help. K. Raschen added that due to the traffic in that cul-de-sac, we will arrange for PD to assist in the removal. Our scheduled removals are completed during the winter. Mrs. Stillman thanked the commission again. D. Pries added that there are evergreen roots present as well, and to make sure the new future driveway has a good, solid gravel base. C. DiPiazza thanked D. Pries, D. Pries stated it was not an issue, as the Commission is not and never has been trying to punish anyone. When we re-plant locations that were too close to the driveway initially, we always make sure to keep 10+ feet away from the existing driveway to avoid future issues.

#### **Superintendent's Report:**

159 Birchwood Road- No issue, K. Raschen recommended release. Motion made by C. Hittel, seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor.

Tree Removal Policy Discussion- K. Raschen and D. Pries discussed the meeting had with administration. To reiterate, the commission is not charging for removals in the case of impacted driveways, ash trees, etc. in these cases, there will be no ISA assessed value to pay for the removal. This policy is only for the people who "don't like" the town tree. Those people will get the option to pay the assessed value and pick up a free permit from the Shade Tree and Parks office, in order for the licensed contractor to perform the work. We amended the policy to work with people who just do not want the existing town tree. Value is capped at \$5,000.00

along with a \$350.00 planting fee for a new town tree. We issue a free permit, and the tree can be removed at their own cost, stump included. The replacement tree will be planted the following spring or fall planting season, after the tree has been removed. D. Preis also stated K. Raschen and himself will be meeting with the legal team as soon as possible to iron out all the details and get the proper wording. D. Preis stated again that this is on a case by case basis, you cannot treat every issue like it's the same. If there is an address with a 35ft, non-legal driveway, paved up to the base of tree, which does exist in town, in that instance the homeowner created the issue. K. Raschen stated that we need to have 5ft around the base of the town tree, which is stated in all curb cut letters.

Tree Planting- K. Raschen stated the department has not had full staff since about August. With COVID, time use is up. The borough is being lenient with using sick/vacation/personal time during the current pandemic. Planting may take slightly longer than usual, but it will get done.

Aerial Bucket truck #402- K. Raschen stated that he was glad both liaisons were present for this meeting. The large bucket truck, 402, is out of service again today for a leak. We are awaiting a call from Aerial Rise regarding the failed inspection of the bucket. There is a backorder in buckets to replace it right now. 402 has been out of service 53 days of 2021. 395, the smaller bucket truck, was also out of service for 38 days. That is 98 days total with not being able to trim, or do a removal. Then, administration calls the office and ask why the residents have to wait. K. Raschen stated, as stated in the past, they would not have to wait if we had reliable equipment. The hours on truck 402 equate to almost 700,000 miles. They recommend a complete overhaul at 500,000 miles, which we are well over.

J. Vartolone- what is the cost of a replacement? K. Raschen explained the last time they gathered that information, January of 2019, it would cost approximately \$295,000.00. the price, as with anything else keep going up with time, and the pandemic's added strain.

Authorization to Pay Bills- Motion made by B. Keppler, seconded by M. Ivanicki . All in favor.

#### Chairman's Report-

New Business -

Old Business-

Land Use-

Personnel-

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:29 pm made by A. Les, seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor