

BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

January 18, 2023

Present: J. Sexton, K. Raschen, D. Pries, B. Keppler, C. Hittel, M. Ivanicki, W. R. Comery, D. Minervini, B. Goggin, J. Quintana, J. Weber

Absent:

K. Raschen called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. 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.

K. Raschen began 2023 nominations. First being for chairman. W.R. Comery made a motion for D. Pries to be nominated as chairman, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor.

K. Raschen handed the meeting over to Chairman D. Pries.

D. Pries stated a motion is needed to nominate a vice chairman. A motion was made to nominate C. Hittel for Vice Chairman by B. Keppler, seconded by B. Goggin. All in favor.

Last nomination is for Commission Secretary. Motion made by B. Keppler for Sarah Dahl as Secretary, seconded by C. Hittel. All in favor.

J. Quintana introduced himself to the Commission as our new Liaison and Council Member, as well as B. Goggin as a newly appointed Commission Member.

D. Pries requested a motion to approve last month's minutes. Motion made by B. Keppler, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor.

Superintendent's Report:

Fall Planting- 2022 fall planting is complete with 164 trees planted by Shade Tree and Parks.

Liner Stock- The liner stock has been received, and is heeled in at the nursery. We will plant the liners at the nursery in the spring.

PSE&G/ NG Gilbert – K. Raschen explained to the Commission that he met with crews after the December 15th meeting. The option of restitution was denied, but Ash tree removals were offered in kind. C. Hittel asked K. Raschen if he was happy with the offer. K. Raschen said yes, its well worth the removals. D. Pries stated it is an excellent deal. K. Raschen explained that they have already began the removals and will make sure they continue until all are complete.

Operations- Preparations have begun for upcoming budget meetings. Requests were submitted last Thursday, and our in-person meeting is this following Monday for our operating budget.

Authorization to Pay Bills- Motion made by B. Goggin, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Year End Reports- Progress is being made – all reports are on schedule to be submitted by their due date, or sooner.

ACRT- J. Sexton explained to the commission that all of our tree climbers on staff must attend this certification course yearly. 3 employees go for recertification, and our one employee must go for the full week course this year. The employees must be CPR/First Aid certified. This course enables our employees to work safely in close proximity to power lines.

Budget – J. Sexton and K. Raschen have been working on forms, calculating prices increases of products, and preparing for budget meetings. Prices have gone up 15%-20% and they are not going down.

Chairman's Report-

New Business -

W.R. Comery made the recommendation to go out to bid for spring planting to replace street trees in areas of ash removal. He suggested planting approximately 350 street trees through a contractor, and approximately 150 trees through the department, depending on stump grinding progress in those areas. Motion made by W.R. Comery, seconded by C. Hittel. All in favor. A suggestion was also made to get quotes to expediate the removal of the remaining ash trees. The removal funds would come from trust. Motion made by D. Minervini, seconded by M. Ivanicki. All in favor.

Old Business-

Land Use-

Personnel-

K. Raschen asked for assistance from the two council liaisons on getting the department's multiple vacant positions filled.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by M. Ivanicki seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor