

**BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**February 13, 2019**

**Present:** J. Sexton, K. Raschen, M. Ivanicki, B. Keppler, D. Preis, C. Hittel, D. Minervini

**Public:** Mr. Rachko; 265 Homestead Road

**Absent:** Holly Tedesco-Santos, A. Les, W. R. Comery

D. Preis called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and stated that this meeting of the Shade Tree & Parks Commission, as required, has been made public and posted at Borough Hall.

**Public:**

**Superintendent's Report:**

**183 & 187 Crest Drive-** Mr. K. Raschen explained that there is one Sycamore at each address. Both residents called as their neighbor's tree was being removed, stating they wanted theirs removed as well. There are no health/structural issues with the trees that would cause them to be removed. Motion to not remove made by B. Keppler, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor.

**265 Homestead Road-** Mr. Rachko explained to the commission that there are squirrels burrowing into his car, which he claims is because of the town tree. D. Minervini asked if the cars have sat for a long time. Mr. Rachko stated they use the cars regularly. C. Hittel stated he has a squirrel problem, not a tree problem. D. Pries agreed it is an animal control issue. The leaves in the picture Mr. Rachko passed around are not the leaves from the town tree. The policy of the commission is to not remove live, healthy trees or interfere with wildlife. Removing the town tree will not stop squirrels from being in the area.

**179 Crest Drive-** K. Raschen explained that the one tree must be removed. The other tree is still in good health post construction. He recommended one tree's preservation be retained, and the other released. Motion made by D. Pries, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor.

**124 Birchwood Road-** Request for tree preservation release. Motion made by D. Minervini, seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor.

**270 Drew Avenue-** Request for additional tree preservation release. Motion made by B. Keppler, seconded by D. Preis.

597 Mazur- The tree is looking better this year than last. K. Raschen stated he would like to take a look at the 26" Oak after leaf out. If it does not leaf out it will be removed.

28 Hampshire Road- The tree sits on the edge of the driveway, it was discussed with Jay S. as well. The tree needs to be thoroughly inspected, which needs to be done with the larger bucket truck and then a decision can be made.

Emerald Ash Borer- Quotes have come in for more Ash treatments. SavaTree is still the lowest price.

Winter Removals- The tree crew is making good progress on removals. 129 Ash trees have been removed out of the 211 total. The crews are working hard and getting the work done in a good time frame.

Equipment- Aerial truck has been out of service for 6 days and counting. There is a leak and the power steering needs to be repaired. It will be out of service for at least a week for these repairs. A replacement truck is \$275,000.00. The truck takes a year to be built. Both of the stump grinders we use for removals are 20 and 26 years old. It is becoming almost impossible to find parts for this equipment.

Employees- We are having an issue in regard to seasonal employees. Their hours have been cut state wide to a max. of 29 hours per week. We would like to try to get non-CDL employees and would be willing to give up our seasonal positions to accommodate for the new positions. The gentlemen work very hard, never call out, and it is unfortunate that they are going to have to cut back their time here. They are a true asset to the department.

Training- Two employees are looking to attend classes. The one is CDL related and is over \$1,000.00. The other is for tree planting, which does apply as the employee assists the planting crew. He is a hard worker, and is very helpful, but there is no need for him to attend irrigation/hazardous tree classes when he is not working on irrigation or assessing trees. The classes do come out of our budget, so we have to be cost-conscious.

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

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

Annual Reports- CMFM- Indemnifies the borough from liability. Our Tree City USA and Growth Award applications have been submitted and approved.

Sidewalks- There are 105 pending locations. \$200,000.00 has been request to take care of the pending sidewalk locations. If residents do not want to wait the courtesy repair, it is always explained that we will assist with the roots if they choose to tend to the sidewalk privately.

Sustainable NJ- This program has a June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. There are many areas, resolutions needed and a lot of work to be done to get re-certified for at least Bronze Award. It takes coordination from the borough and other departments.

**Agenda-**

**Notice of Violation-**

**Chairman's Report-**

**Land use/ Zoning-**

**Old Business-**

**New Business-**

**Personnel-**

Motion to adjourn meeting made by D. Pries, Seconded by M. Ivanicki at 8:30 pm