

BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2018

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

Public: Mrs. Twidle, 123 Village Circle East, Mark Bonardi (Bonardi Brothers Construction), 154 Geering Terrace, Mr. Reibesel, 96 Arnot Place

Absent: J. Payoczkowski, D. Pries, M. Ivanicki, J. Sexton

K. Raschen called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and stated that this meeting of the Shade Tree & Parks Commission, as required, has been made public and posted at Borough Hall.

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

Public:

123 Village Circle East: W.R. Comery asked the resident to get a doctor's letter stating that if the tree was removed it would improve her allergies. Mrs. Twidle explained that the doctor did not want to give a third letter but she wants this large offender gone. She explained her concern for the pollen, and how it blows onto her house and cars and she feels it would be improved if her large Ash tree was removed. The commission does not want to set a precedent for people with allergies to come in for tree removals. H.T. Santos asked if she was comfortable signing a 'no further claims' so she does not come back asking for the neighbor's trees to be removed due to allergy issued. Mrs. Twidle stated she had no issue with this and really just wants her Ash tree removed. She added that she is also allergic to Maple trees so please do not replace the Ash with a Maple. W.R. Comery stated that we have had this discussion multiple times already and a decision needs to be made tonight. D. Minervini made a motion to remove the tree with the mentioned stipulations. 2nd by A. Les. C. Hittel – Nay B. Keppler – Nay W.R. Comery – voted to remove. As per the vote, the tree will be removed and replaced with something other than an Ash or Maple tree.

108 Schimmel Street: Mr. Lee explained that it is a corner house with two Sweet Gum trees. The balls they produce cover the lawn, and make it hard for him and his wife to navigate in and out of their home. As fast as they clean them up, more appear. They are requesting to remove them and replace with different trees. W.R. Comery explained the policy of the commission is not to remove live, healthy trees. The trees are doing what they are meant to do. Those trees were chosen for your area because Sweet Gum trees tolerate damp, swampy areas. W.R. Comery explained that something has to be structurally

wrong with the trees, and the commission will take a look, and check for pruning to see if they can help alleviate the problem. A decision will be made at the March meeting.

96 Arnot Place: The resident came to get an update on his tree situation; he wants the tree removed near his driveway. K. Raschen explained to the resident that when he goes home after the meeting, the tree will already be marked for removal and is already scheduled to come down. It was officially marked earlier that day. He then asked about his damaged driveway and K. Raschen explained that if he decided to re-do it the department will coordinate with the contractor and we will take out the roots before the new driveway is put down.

154 Geering Terrace: Mr. Bonardi explained that there are 3 trees, and the smallest one is the tree in question. It is in the way of the proposed driveway and is not in the best of shape in his opinion. He noted that he always works with us and is happy to discuss any issues he has while doing construction. K. Raschen agreed and said we are all happy to work with him. W.R. Comery explained the photos of the tree and noted a severe twist in the trunk which means nutrients are not passing through the tree correctly. He told the Bonardi Brothers that they will check the tree and get back to him within the week with an answer as to not hold up construction.

Superintendent's Report:

154 Gerring Terrace: see above

108 Schimmel Street: see above

226 Fredrick Street: K. Raschen stated the trees are in good health and would recommend release of preservation. Motion made by D. Minervini, seconded by B. Keppler

321 Bullard Avenue: K. Raschen stated the trees are in good health and would recommend release of preservation. Motion made by D. Minervini, seconded by A. Les

23 Hollybrook Road: K. Raschen stated the trees are in good health and would recommend release of preservation. Motion made by D. Minervini, seconded by A. Les

126 Prospect Street: The residents came in to request the tree be removed. It was discussed, documentation was found and showed that the town was paid to plant the trees. Therefore, two letters were sent stating they were town trees which would remain in place. During a street survey K. Raschen noticed the trees were gone. They removed them on their own after being told they were town trees which would be remaining as is, being that there was nothing wrong with them. A summons has been issued.

Street Survey: K. Raschen told the commission that himself, S. Dahl, and W.R. Comery have been checking the entire town street by street and documenting issues and work to be done.

Plantings, removals, stumps, and everything in between have been documented so that they can organize a work list and complete it along with service requests, etc.

PSEG: On hold – the meeting could not be scheduled due to both K. Raschen and W.R. Comery being sick. A complete list will be made, restitution amounts are already up to \$14,000.00.

Winter Removals: 138- 140 trees to be removed. The number will increase, more to come.

Patrick Doremus: He was hired as a tree climber, then fell off his motorcycle which made him unable to perform his work duties. We are putting in a personnel change since we got his verbal resignation.

Protective wrap for trees: K. Raschen brought in a sample of tree wrap to protect our young trees against deer rub. The wrap is available in white and brown, W.R. Comery suggests brown so it blends in better with the trees.

Authorization to Pay Bills: Motion to pay bills was made D. Minervini, seconded by A. Les. All in favor.

Assistant Superintendent's Report:

Annual Reports: Annual Report, Tree City USA, Annual Accomplishment report, etc are all complete and submitted. These give us immunity from tree related liability. A webinar was also done and the staff received CEU's for participating.

Welcome Packet: FAQ's and other information have been placed on the borough website. Hopefully this will help answer some of the residents' questions. The website looks really nice now that it has been updated and provides helpful information. Kudos to the IT Department.

Roots in the Lawn spring locations: There are 43 locations remaining, sent out February 5, 2018. We are slowly but surely getting them returned to the office. If we do not get a response after the second mailing they will be taken off the list.

2018 Sidewalks: There are 57 locations left on the list to be completed. All addresses are current. All have been marked and the contractor has been updated. They can start as soon as the weather breaks.

Ash Tree Survey: W.R. Comery stated it was a lot of information, it's about a 60/40 removal to remain ratio. We will be working to get quotes for removals.

Agenda-

Notice of Violation-

Chairman's Report-

General-

Land use/ Zoning- K. Raschen stated Care One is not authorized to use any substitutions for their landscape plan.

Old Business-

New Business-

Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:06 pm by D. Minervini, Seconded by A. Les