

BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2019

Present: J. Sexton, K. Raschen, M. Ivanicki, B. Keppler, D. Preis, C. Hittel, D. Minervini, H. Tedesco-Santos, A. Les

Public: Radha Shah, Girl Scout Presentation

Absent: W. R. Comery, C. Hittel, J. Weber

D. Preis called the meeting to order at 7:32 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:

R. Shah presented to the Commission something that affected her neighborhood for her Girl Scout project and award. She chose roots affecting sidewalk slabs. She showed photos of the lifted slabs, and discussed the ways this affects her neighborhood directly. She also discussed possible solutions to this issue, such as a permeable sidewalk material, different kinds of trees to plant with smaller root crowns, etc. Solutions that are being looked at are to decrease risk factor. H. Tedesco-Santos suggested she come to this meeting as it's a good place to present her ideas being that it is directly related. D. Preis explained the Sidewalk Program to her. H. Tedesco-Santos thanked R. Shah and her mother for her excellent presentation and for taking the time to come in and speak to us. The Shade Tree email was provided so R. Shah can get in touch with the department regarding the sidewalk presentation. The entire commission thanked her for coming in and was genuinely impressed by how professional she was.

Superintendent's Report:

Planting- There are 212-220 trees to plant this spring. There was no spring planting in the spring of 2018 due to the extent of the March storms that had to be cleaned up after. We will be planting as many trees as possible to try to make up for the missed planting season. The nursery will be checked for any trees we can dig, rather than purchase for the planting.

Removals- Approximately 160 trees have been removed so far. We are getting as much done as we can with the equipment we have; some trees had to be climbed while the truck is out. All the Acorn Drive removals have been completed; K. Raschen took Mr. D'Arco to show him the progress on the street. We also have 18 large removals that PSEG is assisting with. We are working on getting a schedule from them. Some of these removals need a crane. We are trying to coordinate with that we have.

2019 Equipment Capital- 413 has been out 29 days. 402 has been out for 26 days. 4132 needed its whole engine repaired, and had to be taken apart twice. It's been sent out for a radiator three times. K. Raschen explained he is over at the DPW garage multiple times a day for equipment updates and issues. Unfortunately, you cannot rent a bucket truck on a day to day basis, which leaves us without one. Tree companies are busy right now for the same reasons we are.

Foreman Posting/Employees- We posted the foreman position on indeed and a number of other websites to reach the largest crowd possible. It is a specialized position and it only being on the Borough Website won't be enough. We've received a few applicants, which we always respond to for more information. The posting hasn't timed out yet so we will be keeping lines of communication open.

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

Assistant Superintendent's Report:

Sandy Recovery Seedlings- This may be the last year for the sandy recovery trees, but each year we get the seedlings and hand them out at Earth Day to anyone interested.

Earth Day- We are awaiting the final hosting location for Earth Day. Handouts will be provided with the seedlings for information and proper care.

Sustainable NJ- A. Burrows has been working with J. Sexton on this project. They have been collecting and submitting information from practically all departments to get the amount of credits needed for the Bronze Award. Everyone has been very helpful and cooperative in this manner. We are just 10 points shy of our minimum requirement, which will be submitted by the end of the week. The final deadline is June 1st.

Newsletter- All departments have to submit articles for the quarterly newsletter. J. Sexton worked on an article regarding lichen and moss information for residents. It is something we get calls about often, confusing it with mold/mushrooms/etc. This will provide information and hopefully answer some resident's questions.

Annual Reports- Both applications have been submitted for the Annual Reports. The CFMP and AAR are submitted and approved for the 2018 year.

Agenda-

Notice of Violation-

Chairman's Report-

Land use/ Zoning- There was a MVA at 545 Route 17, tree was damaged on impact and a claim has been sent to the insurance company.

Old Business-

New Business- D. Preis discussed the possibility of changing the tree preservation procedure.

Personnel-

Motion to adjourn meeting made by D. Pries, Seconded by M. Ivanicki at 8:52 pm