

BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2018

Present: S. Dahl, J. Sexton, B. Keppler, C. Hittel, D. Minervini, M. Ivanicki, D. Preis, A. Les,

Public:

Absent: K. Raschen, J. Payoczkowski, H. Tedesco-Santos, C. DiPiazza

W.R. Comery 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.

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

Public:

Superintendent's Report:

Assistant Superintendent's Report:

Earth Day- J. Sexton informed the commission that Earth Day is approaching and we are hanging out sandy recovery seedlings once again. It will be at the band shell from 1-3, rain or shine. J. Sexton is picking the seedlings up on Friday for the event on Sunday. Commissioners are welcome to come and help out the department.

Sidewalks- 41 locations have been completed by the contractor. There are only 26 pending and the list is current. Some locations need police details.

Nor'easter- The recent storm put a halt on the department's operations. 27 trees were lost, private and town trees. There were branches and debris all over town. We are up to 200 yards of chips from the storm damage, which is currently laid out at the municipal pool parking lot. Due to this storm, the heritage Elm tree on Midland Avenue had to come down. We worked in conjunction with Downes Tree service and the Police Department. The job was completed in a day.

Roots in the Lawn- 51 locations are pending. The list should be current shortly.

Stalk Removal Estimate- The best quote for the removal of stalks left by PSE&G was from Downes Tree Service. W.R. Comery explained they used to remove the whole tree but occasionally they leave stalks which we then have to remove. They are huge stalks, about 48".

The quote is in the amount of \$2,650. J. Sexton asked for a motion to approve the spending of trust funds. Motion made by D. Preis, seconded by D. Minervini.

Removals- 225 trees were marked for removal. Of the 225, 208 have been removed. There are 17 that need to be removed with our larger bucket truck which is getting service done. This number does not include the pending Ash removals.

Authorization to Pay Bills- Motion to pay bills was made D. Preis, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor.

Agenda-

Notice of Violation-

Chairman's Report- W.R. Comery explained to the commission that the plan for the Emerald Ash Borer Treatment is going to be sent over to the Mayor and Council. There is a total of 2,932 Ash trees that are in town and that were surveyed. There is about a 50/50 treat or remove rate. We broke the trees down by caliper so we could obtain a quote for treatment and removals. The treatment would last about 2-3 years and it is much less expensive than inevitably taking all of the Ash trees down. Many have found success with the product used for the EAB epidemic. Having more personnel and equipment would be a huge help with this upcoming project. A. Les asked if we could treat all at once instead of half and half. C. Hittel agreed. D. Preis made a motion to treat all at once if possible. C. Hittel seconded. The paperwork will be going over to Mayor and Council within the next day or two.

General-

Land use/ Zoning-

Old Business-

New Business-

Personnel – One of our long standing employees has retired. Manuel Garcia started as a seasonal employee and eventually decided to go full time. He is a hard worker, and used to be a teacher. He has a master's degree in Chemistry and Science. He is a wonderful person to work with and he will be missed.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 90:02 pm by D. Minervini, Seconded by C. Hittel