

BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2021

Present: K. Raschen, J. Sexton, W.R. Comery, D. Preis, B. Keppler, A. Les, D. Minervini, C. Hittel, M. Ivanicki, J. Weber, Elizabeth Kinosian

Absent: C. DiPiazza

D. Preis called the meeting to order at 7:00 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.

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

Public:

Elizabeth Kinosian

(#2) K. Raschen stated that all commissioners received an email sent from a resident, which is listed under "resident concern" for anonymity on the Superintendent's Report. It was requested that the commission review the email and attachments sent by the resident, look at the location, and discuss based upon the content of the emails. Mrs. Kinosian stated she and her husband are the residents of 29 Gilbert Avenue, and stated they have 50 trees and bushes they maintain on their property. They are concerned the roots from the 5 town trees on their corner lot are growing towards their house and believe it is compromising their garage and or foundation. They are also concerned with the type of tree planted, Sycamore, as they can grow to be very large (over 100 feet). Addresses were mentioned that have less town trees than at the Kinosian's address, that are also corner lots. It was also mentioned by the resident that they do not have a large backyard, and feels the town trees take away from the front lawn. Mrs. Kinosian stated her issues are lack of a back yard, her address is on a hill, tree roots, and that there are too many town trees in the area of her front yard. She also believes the trees have termites. She requested help from the Commission, and thanked them for their time. D. Preis thanked her for their presentation and stated the commission will review, and discuss at next month's meeting.

K. Raschen stated he believed the outlined their concerns clearly, and it is important for all the commission members to go take a look at their address before the May Commission meeting. K. Raschen and J. Sexton met with the residents at their address last Friday. They were concerned about roots in the lawn, and the program was offered to them. The sidewalks on Gilbert Avenue are unaffected by the town trees. There are a few misaligned slabs, therefore they could be added to the sidewalk program as well if they choose to. The current Driveway Policy was also explained to them during the site meeting.

W.R. Comery stated their claims were erroneous. Roots coming from a tree 50 feet away from the front of your home are not large or strong enough to damage garage flooring. In regard to the termites, termites don't live in live trees, and all the town trees at this address are live and healthy. The resident also pointed out addresses with fewer trees than her address, but is not aware of decisions to plant or not plant, based upon existing native trees, underground utilities, and so on. There was a lot of misinformation supplied. The house was purchased with the existing town trees. The size of the backyard was also 7 feet when the house was purchased. She stated they are concerned with roots getting into the garage. K. Raschen mentioned to W.R. Comery that they showed the garage floor at their meeting, and the issue is surface exfoliation. W.R. Comery concurred that it is an original garage most likely from the 50's, and stated tree roots do not grow uphill, or into homes. D. Pries stated he does feel that they have a lot of town trees for a corner lot. W.R. Comery stated it is the appropriate amount for a corner lot, but these trees have been there for longer than any one of us attending this meeting so he cannot advise who decided to plant that number of trees. J. Sexton stated the trees are evenly spaced along the property, and there is an evergreen tree which is private, that is planted right next to the garage. This is why it is important for everyone to check the location themselves. The tree removal policy was offered, and the residents did not want that as an option.

B. Keppler stated the structural report was done by the homeowner and asked if this was a conflict of interest.

Superintendent's Report:

260 Herbert Place— K. Raschen stated there are no issues at this address. Motion to release made by D. Minervini, seconded by C. Hittel. All in favor.

Planting- All trees and planting supplies have been ordered and delivered. We are working with three growers to get liner stock for the nursery, but they are scarce and expensive right now.

Removals- K. Raschen stated that our contact at Public Service has retired and we have not met his replacement yet. An employee from Davey Tree was hired, and is not as liberal with help. There are several large trees that need to be removed, and am asking the commission for approval to rent a crane for these removals which are mostly oaks. W.R. Comery asked the cost. K. Raschen stated its about \$6,000.00 for approximately nine removals. D. Preis stated that is a great price. Motion made by M. Ivanicki, seconded by D. Minervini.

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

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Sidewalks- 96 locations have been completed since the middle of March. Pending capital approval, there are 44 additional locations left from 2020 to complete, and 16 pending from 2021.

Roots in the Lawn- Second batch of Hold Harmlesses have been sent out, if they are not returned the addresses are taken off of the list. We are getting ready to begin the program shortly with only a few locations to complete.

Chairman's Report-

New Business -

Old Business-

J. Sexton stated there will be policy manual revisions to review and discuss for the next commission meeting.

Restitution is due from the contractor regarding the tree removal issue at 44 Sycamore Street.

Land Use-

Personnel-

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:50 pm made by D. Minervini, seconded by M. Ivanicki. All in favor