

BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2021

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

Absent: A. Les

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

Mrs. Kinosian stated her issues are lack of a back yard, her address is on a hill, tree roots impacting water, gas, foundation, and that there are too many town trees in the area of her front yard. She also believes the trees have termites. B. Keppler stated she did some research and the roots of sycamores usually don't extend past 17 feet. D. Pries asked if her husband performed the engineering report. E. Kinosian confirmed her husband completed the engineering report for their address. D. Pries asked how Mr. Kinosian confirmed the tree roots are interfering with the home. Mrs. Kinosian stated it was fairly obvious. W.R. Comery stated he is a licensed tree expert, and asked how he determined the tree roots were entering these locations mentioned in the report? Mrs. Kinosian stated she has dozens of concerns, and that her family is the kind of family the Borough should want in town. This is because her kids get good grades, are liked by their teachers, and because the family volunteers in town. She stated again that her back yard is small, and the trees are too big for her front yard in her opinion. She also stated her husband was in a bicycle accident.

D. Preis thanked her for her time and for joining us. Mrs. Kinosian asked the Commission to consider what she's expressed.

W.R. Comery stated the information was provided more from the heart than from factual information. A 400 year old tree found on the internet does not pertain to this issue. Her husband also did the engineering report without any excavation or proof that the roots are causing the damage they are claiming. D. Pries stated there is one raised roots going towards the house, at the base of the tree. Otherwise, the trees look in excellent condition. K. Raschen stated they were offered the roots in the lawn program, the sidewalk program, and the commission's removal policy. They were not receptive to these options. Options for the driveway were also provided to the residents. They only want the trees

removed. D. Pries stated it is the commission policy to not remove live, healthy trees. It is impossible to say the roots are causing the damage without any excavation and you cannot make that assumption. K. Raschen stated there are also private trees right against the house/garage. D. Pries stated that the resident seems frustrated, but does not have all the facts. If two of the five trees are taking a toll on the residents, the removal policy was offered. D. Pries suggested a meeting be scheduled between himself, K. Raschen, and the borough engineer for an inspection at this address. D. Pries asked if our liaisons had any questions or comments. C. DiPiazza stated he does not, there is a process and the commission is going through it.

Superintendent's Report:

818 Stella Court– K. Raschen stated there are no issues at this address. Motion to release made by C. Hittel, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor.

352 Janet Avenue- Resident is concerned with town tree roots and her sprinkler system. A meeting was set up with her irrigation tech, but he did not show up for the meeting. All zones there work excluding a few by the curb strip, which could be broken from anything, or blocked, etc.

Planting- all mark outs are submitted for planting, trees have been purchased or dug from the nursery, and crews will begin planting tomorrow.

Removals- K. Raschen explained that during usual operations removals are completed during the winter months. Due to the emerald ash borer, ash removals will be completed year round. While completing ash removals, crews are also out doing regular removals, street trimming, service requests, roots in the lawn, etc. The removals that require a crane will begin shortly.

Aerial Bucket Truck #402- K. Raschen asked for an update on 2021 Capital, J. Weber stated she would check and get back to K. Raschen.

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

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan- J. Sexton explained this plan was put together in 2015, and has been updated as the program moves along. Residents in removal areas will be notified ahead of time when we move into a new grouping. Our goal is to make them as safe as possible, as soon as possible. We will be making many ash trees safe by removing leads and leaving a stalk. The stalk can then be removed and stumps ground.

Ordinance #129- This ordinance is modeled after the State of New Jersey's. It has been redone, revised, and submitted for review to the borough attorney. A copy will be sent for the commission to review once it is received.

Policy Manual- There is an addendum for the newly revised ordinance. J. Sexton will advise the borough attorney that all comments/corrections have been made. The first reading of the Policy Manual should be ready for next month's meeting.

Memorial Day Monuments- Crews cleaned, power washed, and planted flowers at various memorial locations prior to the ceremonies towards the end of the month. All locations were hydro-seeded, have been cleaned, and will be looking their absolute best for their corresponding memorial services.

Chairman's Report-

New Business -

140 Route 17 – K. Raschen explained the contractor must extend drainage, and he needs head wall where the tree is as per engineering. This would fall under the removal policy and full restitution would be paid. Motion made to allow removal made by W.R. Comery, seconded by M. Ivanicki. D. Preis abstained. All in favor.

Old Business-

Land Use-

Personnel-

Motion to adjourn meeting made by B. Keppler, seconded by M. Ivanicki. All in favor