

BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2018

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

Public: Mr. Parikh of 279 Henry Street, Mr. Uphadrya of 274 Columbia Terrace, Mr. Koutros and Mr. Weurtz for 512 Marion Lane, Mr. Tejada re 624 Alberta Drive, Mr. Spivak of 396 Hickory Place

Absent: C. DiPiazza, H. Tedesco - Santos

W.R. Comery called the meeting to order at 7:34 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. Preis, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor.

A motion was made to close session by D. Minervini, Seconded by D. Preis, all in favor.

A motion was made to reopen the meeting to the public at 8:04 pm by D.Preis, seconded by B. Keppler, all in favor.

Public:

624 Alberta Drive- K. Raschen explained to the commission that an ST-1 Summons was issued because excavation took place next to the town tree. No fencing was installed. A summons was issued, and it was settled in court that a fine must be paid. The value of the tree is \$3,828.00. Mr.Tejada asked that it be lowered because the tree didn't look healthy and K. Raschen explained that the request must go before the commission. Mr.Tejada claimed to have never been notified about the tree fencing. The tree fencing detail should be in every packet provided by the Building Department for new construction. W.R. Comery stated we hold tree preservation by policy and ordinance, and we cannot waive it. We hold tree preservation to ensure trees do not get damaged and you have already damaged it. C. Hittel made a motion for Mr.Tejada to pay entire tree preservation, seconded by D. Preis. All in favor. Entire \$3,828.00 must be paid.

279 Henry Street- Mr.Parikh explained to the commission how his home was built and how the trees were worked into the design itself. This is why the homeowner is requesting larger trees be planted. They also requested native trees that are aesthetically pleasing. The commission and Mr.Parikh discussed possible tree sizes and species. A 2 ½" – 3" caliper sycamore tree will be planted at 279 Henry Street with the homeowner in agreement. A motion was made by W.R. Comery, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor.

512 Marion Lane- Mr.Koutros and his neighbor of 510 Marion Lane, Mr.Weurtz, came in to discuss the tree at 512 Marion Lane. K. Raschen explained the background of this issue. The address had sidewalks done in 2006. They requesting roots in the lawn work to be done on the tree and a hold harmless was sent to allow us to go on the private property to work on the tree roots. Mrs.Koutros was not comfortable with signing the form. Then they asked for trimming of specific branches that were worrying Mrs.Koutros. In order to reach the area in question, private property must be accessed. The hold harmless was never returned to this office to do the work. The Koutros' then requested the tree be removed. Mr.Koutros explained that every time it rains, his wife takes their children to the living room to sleep because she thinks the tree is going to fall on the house. W.R. Comery stated that himself, a Certified Tree Expert deems the tree perfectly healthy, as well as our tree foreman and two superintendents. He apologized that Mrs.Koutros feels that worried, but if it was a hazard it would not still be standing. W.R. Comery suggested that the Koutros' consider signing the hold harmless to let us do the necessary work on the tree. A motion was made by C. Hittel to deny removal as it is a live healthy tree. Motion seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor.

396 Hickory Place- Mr.Spivak requested the removal of a town tree in the center of his yard because he is craning in a modular addition for his mother to move into. K. Raschen said the tree isn't in great shape. J. Sexton asked for a copy of the plans/survey to be brought to the office. The commission agreed to remove middle tree for the modular addition if Mr.Spivack pays for the planting of its replacement tree. A motion was made by D. Preis, seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor. Tree will not be removed until check for \$350.00 is received.

274 Columbia Terrace- Mr.Upadhya explained to the commission that he has back issues and physical limitations. The lawn is constantly covered in leaves. K. Raschen passed around photos. It is an Ash tree and it isn't in great condition. The commission agreed to remove the tree in the upcoming winter months.

Superintendent's Report:

683 Drexel Road- This address is next to the wetlands. The resident calls on a regular basis because she is worried about the wetland trees. There are a few that are scheduled to be removed because they are dead. The rest of the trees must remain in the wetlands area as they are live and healthy. If she has any other issues the commission suggests contacting the DEP wetlands division. We cannot go into that area and start taking down trees at a residents request.

771 Arbor Road- The resident at this address calls and emails the office constantly. The department removed one small, dead tree near a drainage easement and she calls claiming things are falling, hurting her, etc. Her story changes each time she calls and she does not let anyone in the department get a word in edgewise. Ken, Jay, and Glen have been to the address multiple times to assess and meet with the homeowner. There are no hazards from the area of the drainage easement. She is now asking we remove a sumack tree that hangs over into her

yard. It was explained that you can trim anything hanging over your property line in regard to the sumack. Nothing poses a hazard in that area. If it did, the items would have been removed with the initial removal. D. Pries made a motion to deny removal, seconded by A. Les. All in favor.

228 Taylor Road- No resident came to the meeting in regard to this. The tree is live and healthy, the resident has issues with "dirty roots". Request for removal denied. Motion made by C. Hittel, Seconded by M. Ivanicki. All in favor.

28 Demarest Road- K. Raschen explained that he spoke to the resident who stated he has a hyper-sensitivity to birds/bird feces. He is requesting we remove the trees because of the bird sensitivity. The commission discussed and mentioned that birds land other places than trees, and removing a tree does not stop birds from landing on or near your property. W.R. Comery also stated that it is in our policy (#28) that we do not interfere with wildlife, besides stinging insects in town trees. We will trim the tree, but it will not be removed. Motion made by D. Minervini, seconded by D. Preis. All in favor.

811 Alden Road – Homeowner requested removal because of too many acorns. The tree is live and healthy. Motion made to deny removal by C. Hittel, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor.

29 Harmon Drive- Trees in good health. Motion made to release by D. Pries, seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor.

342 Elmwood Drive- Trees in good health. Motion made to release by D. Pries, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor.

319 Lockwood Drive- A limb fell from the tree, crews were called in to clean the area and Public Service was out to the location the next day. Mr.Hegg stated he wanted the commission to have a LTE check the tree and guarantee its health. The commission agreed that no LTE will accept that kind of liability upon himself. It was checked by the chairman, superintendents, and tree foreman. A limb falling does not mean the tree is in bad health or will fall in its entirety. The motion to deny was made by C. Hittel, seconded by D. Minervini.

Planting- 138 trees have been tagged at the nursery for planting. Next week crews will start digging with the new tree spade to prep the trees for planting. 324 total trees are to be planted this fall. 100 are being done by a contractor for the no net loss grant.

Emerald Ash Borer- there is a money discrepancy – K.Raschen explained that himself and S. Dahl went out, measured and marked all trees to be treated. A small buffer was left incase the vendor measured differently than we did. We are not paying for more than the purchase order allotted.

Board of Education – their insurance adjuster came and determined they need a tree removed on the property. W.R. Comery asked for proof – copy of paperwork from the insurance company, etc. The trees will be removed and located if it is a valid concern.

Employees- We have a few new hires which are working well so far. K. Raschen had a sit down with the new applicant and paperwork will be submitted shortly to administration.

Authorization to Pay Bills- Motion made by D. Minervini, seconded by D. Pries. All in favor.

Assistant Superintendent's Report:

Sportsplex Lighting- The light controls at the Sportsplex had a direct lightning hit. The electrician came and fixed the issues. Everything is up and running again.

Paramus Run- J. Sexton informed the commission that the Paramus Run, as in the past, requested the use of the garage on October 21, 2018 for prep. We have done this for 39 years. Motion made by D. Preis, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor of garage use for Paramus Run.

Fall Prep- Baseball, football, and soccer are on track for the fall. Improvements to fields are being made, crews are working on them on a daily basis.

Sidewalks- J. Sexton explained that the contractor is only working on the remaining storm damage locations for 2018. There are currently 91 locations pending for 2019. We cannot get a straight answer from finance or administration regarding the sidewalk monies. D. Pries made a motion to pursue sidewalk funding issue. Seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor.

Agenda-

K. Raschen stated the NJ Shade Tree Federation is coming up Oct. 18-19th. A professional activity form has been filed as to try to avoid the reimbursement issues we had last year. A motion was made by M. Ivanicki and seconded by D. Pries for Ken Raschen and Bill Comery to attend the NJSTF.

Notice of Violation-

Chairman's Report-

W.R. Comery reiterated that we need to get a solid answer on the sidewalk program and a meeting with our council liaisons is necessary at this point since the department does not get answers from anyone.

W.R. Comery also stated 538 trees were treated of 2,394 trees that need to be treated. Hopefully more can be treated because untreated trees have a 99.7% mortality rate. About

250-300 trees will need to come down a year and with our old equipment that is constantly breaking down, it is going to be a difficult feat. Whether a contractor can be brought in, or newer equipment bought, this project can't be handled as is. We need approximately \$40,000.00 to treat 600 more trees. Truck 413 needs to be replaced, the department is going to try to complete the task of replacement in 2019. If we need to do all the removals in house without a contractor, more personnel and equipment will be needed.

Land use/ Zoning-

Old Business-

New Business-

Personnel-

New tree climber hired July 2, 2018. Working well so far.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by D. Pries, Seconded by D. Minervini