

BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

October 10, 2018

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

Public: Mr. Homsj, 181 Midwood Road

Absent: H. Tedesco - Santos

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. Preis, seconded C. Hittel. All in favor.

Public:

181 Midwood Road- Mr.Homsj requested his tree preservation be returned 5 months early. He explained his house is set very far back and the construction did not take place near the tree. K. Raschen confirmed there has been no evident damage to the tree. W.R. Comery made a motion to release, seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor.

Superintendent's Report:

62 Fern Place- The resident requested the removal of the town tree near the driveway because he does not like the location. D. Preis asked if the tree is healthy. K. Raschen explained that it is, there is nothing wrong with the 24-25" Sycamore. The resident just does not want it as he stated. D. Preis made a motion to deny removal, seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor.

28 Demarest Road- K. Raschen checked this location again today. He explained that he saw no bird feces near the trees or on their property. The Commission denied removal, not trimming g. The street was done in 2016 so there are no hazards but the residents did not request a trim, only removal. The residents have not submitted any documentation that backs up the alleged health issues in regard to bird feces. They did not show up at the Commission meeting to discuss the issue. It was wrong for them to be invited to the Mayor & Council meeting without administration speaking to anyone at Shade Tree first for the entire information on the issue.

752 Prescott Place- K. Raschen explained that the residents of this address were asked to move their equipment during construction so we could trim the tree as they requested. The

equipment was never moved, therefore we could not access the trees. Glen left a letter asking them to contact the office in regard to moving the equipment, they never contacted us. They instantly went to the Mayor and Council and we are asked what we are doing wrong. If the equipment was moved months ago when we asked, the trimming would be complete. W.R. Comery stated there is no communication between us and the Mayor and Council. There are two sides to every story and before asking us, we are assumed to be in the wrong. Shade Tree takes hazards and priorities very seriously and administration/Mayor and Council should speak to the department instead of assuming they did not do their jobs before any discussion. A. Les stated it is wrong that when residents go to the M&C and make claims angrily, they are believed before the town's employees and volunteers are even brought into the matter.

346 Elliot Place- K. Raschen explained that we have tree preservation on this tree, the Certificate of Occupancy was issued less than a year ago. The resident is requesting the removal although there are no real issues with the tree. Motion to deny removal made by D. Preis, seconded by A. Les. All in favor.

Planting – 98 trees have been dug from the nursery in 6 days. There are 99 trees to plant under the No Net Loss. The new 32" tree spade has been an immense help with getting the planting underway. We are aiming for a 16 trees a day average. There are 321 trees to be planted this season.

Board of Education tree relocation- the BOE asked that we move some trees in accordance with their insurance company. There will be 11 trees moved in total. This is possible because they are newly planted trees and it the safest season to relocate without stress. The new tree spade will be a great help in completing this in a timely fashion. Some trees will be going near the track to shade it in the future as the trees grow.

Emerald Ash Borer- We have been communicating with administration in regard to the funding for the Ash removals which has been allocated. The price from Downes has risen slightly from last year but they still have the best price with the most recent pricing. We will provide police details and notify residents prior to the removals beginning.

Trailer 173- K. Raschen explained he'd like to resurrect the old trailer at the nursery for moving trees. It would need new a new floor, and the tires are dry rotted. We have spoken to mechanics about getting it back up and running. We are working on getting quotes for the re-decking.

Employees- A long time employee Michael Barreto passed away. His family was touched that his truck was at the service in his honor. Everyone from the department came, along with other borough employees. His brother was astonished by the support of the department he was with for so many years.

Michael Barreto Dedication-The Paramus Library sent a lovely letter dedicating multiple books in the name of Michael, as he was a friendly face on the library grounds for many years. It was a genuinely touching gesture.

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

Assistant Superintendent's Report:

Agenda-

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