

BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

December 18, 2024

Present: K. Raschen, W.R. Comery, B. Keppler, B. Goggin, M. Ivanicki, F. Rizzo, D. Preis, D. Minervini

Absent:

D. Preis called the meeting to order at 7:04 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.

Public:

Superintendent's Report:

KR extended a thank you to Chairman Dennis Pries for 17 years of volunteering with the Shade Tree Commission. D.Preis explained to the commissioners that he has resigned from his position on the Commission, and will not be returning next year. The commissioners thanked D. Preis for his hard work and expertise over many years. Mayor DiPiazza provided D. Preis with a certificate for his many years of dedication.

Motion to approve last month's minutes made by B. Goggin, seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor.

118 Village Circle East- resident requesting we do not re-plant at his address, just does not want a tree. motion to replant made by W.R. Comery, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor.

Tree Preservation- 749 Highland Avenue - K. Raschen made a recommendation to hold for additional 2 years, various violations on file; M. Ivanicki made the motion, B. Goggin seconded- all in favor

Fall Tree Planting- After submitting quotes and invoice for fall tree order, we were told we would now have to go out to bid for tree planting. These trees have already been tagged and checked by KR, and now we are unable to purchase and receive them. We will go out to bid for planting as soon as possible.

Tree Inventory Software- the contractor hired to work on our tree inventory is unable to use the borough's SDL program to input all the information. She suggested a program through Davey Tree that other municipalities have used successfully. B. Goggin made a motion to purchase the appropriate program through Davey, seconded by W.R. Comery. All in favor.

NJ Shade Tree Federation- W.R. Comery, K. Raschen and Tree Foreman Glen Suhr attended this year and they had a lot of good information. The NJ state law going into effect for private trees was discussed at length as well.

K.Raschen met with East Coast for various planting locations to have larger trees transplanted – specifically 4 locations along route 4 and route 17. The quote calls for the replanting of 31 trees. The total is approx.. \$98,000.00. Commissioners discussed trying to bill Krispy Kreme owners for destroying trees that we did not receive restitution for.

Downes – Ash Removals- all work that was bid on has been completed. Once we have our budget info for 2025, we will move ahead with other removals we would like their assistance with.

Personnel- K. Raschen informed the Commission that we still have not received a posting for assistant superintendent. We were told this position was approved at the August mayor and council meeting. We are still down laborers as well.

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

Chairman’s Report-

New Business-

Resident removed two town trees earlier in the year. The borough attorney accepted checks for the value of the tree and re-planting. After two requests via email, the borough attorney still has not sent us the checks for this tree removal.

Another resident after years of communication with this office confirming their town trees cannot be removed – removed their town trees and expanded their driveway/ curb cut. It was noticed when KR was sent to check another address nearby. The same resident filed for a curb cut after the curb cut and driveway work was already complete. The plot plan submitted with this curb cut also clearly shows the location of the town trees within the utility easement at this address. The borough attorney then sent a letter on behalf of the resident, defending the action. D. Minervini suggested the commission direct a letter to the borough attorney regarding the blatant conflict of interest. Motion made by F. Rizzo to send a letter to the borough attorney with a final pay by date for the checks never given to our office, seconded by D. Preis. All in favor.

Old Business-

The posting for Assistant Superintendent has finally been created, but it is not posted anywhere. It isn’t even on the borough website. We requested it be posted on League of Municipalities and were denied, being told it is too expensive.

Land Use-

Motion to adjourn meeting made by B. Goggin, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor