

## BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

### MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2025

**Present:** K. Raschen, Steven Campbell, W.R. Comery, B. Goggin, M. Ivanicki, F. Ehlers, F. Rizzo, J. Weber, A. Antonio

**Absent:** V. Piccinich, R. Kaiser

W.R. Comery called the meeting to order at 7:05 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:**

Mr. Vando, Borough Attorney – Came to discuss updating our ordinance to reflect our existing policy manual. The update would include the ISA formula used for tree appraisal. This is to ensure a clear pathway and explanation for residents, contractors etc. The existing removal policy was explained by the commission. Mr. Vando explained the mayor and council would like a flat rate based on caliper size of the tree for driveway expansion where a town tree is in the way. Ex: 8-12", \$500.00, 13-18" \$1,00.00, and so on. The commission agrees and agrees with this proposal. W.R. Comery stated we want to make sure this is fair for all, and everyone in town is treated equally. Rates will be discussed and Mr. Vando stated he would return next month to continue moving forward with updating the ordinance.

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

#### **Superintendent's Report:**

K. Raschen introduced Steve Campbell, new Assistant Superintendent to the Commission. S. Campbell introduced himself, and gave a little background on his history. He graduated Rutgers in Landscape Architecture, worked for the Board of Education, and most recently was building turf fields.

**Shade Tree Bid-** The bid opening was last Thursday, Schictels was awarded the bid. It is pending mayor and council approval and should be approved on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. A. Hios inquired about the types of trees ordered. K. Raschen listed London plane, cherry, zelkova, tree lilac. Wire sides of streets receive utility friendly trees. We do our best to diversify when planting to avoid a monoculture.

**Spring Tree Planting-** 46 trees from our nursery have been dug, and planted at various suitable locations throughout the borough. 5-6 locations need the stump re-ground by Downes, once that is complete the few remaining nursery trees will be planted.

**PSE&G Line Clearance-** PSE&G has crews back in town for line clearance. They butchered trees in nearby municipalities, so we are making sure we are notified of where they're working to ensure no damage is done to our trees. K. Raschen explained they are instructed to meet with himself and S. Campbell before they begin any trimming.

**Parks and Fields-** Currently focusing on the Sportsplex, Sirianni and all baseball fields to make sure they're ready for upcoming sports. Community parks and borough locations will then be tended to. There are 46 acres of land we maintain regularly.

**Authorization to Pay Bills-** Motion made by B. Goggin, seconded F. Rizzo. All in favor.

**Chairman's Report-**

W.R. Comery stated he appreciates the ordinance updates, it will help us all and truly seems like a great idea. Hopefully we can get this completed by our May meeting.

**Council Report** – A. Antonio and J. Weber welcomed S. Campbell, and expressed happiness that the position was filled.

**New Business-** Finance denied the East Coast landscaping proposal, we will be unable to have them transplant larger trees that are growing in the nursery.

Three new employees are starting April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business-** As the commission requested, a certified letter was sent to the resident of 631 Freeland Avenue requesting the payment we never received, that was sent to and accepted by Mr. Giblin. Mr. Cardoso asked that we sent him any information we have regarding this so he can look into it.

**Land Use-**

Frisch Ct – K. Raschen explained their updated plan showed a significant reduction in the buffer zone between residential areas. The buffer must remain as is to ensure the resident's protection.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by A. Hios, seconded by B. Goggin. All in favor