BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2016

Attendance: W. R. Comery, K. Raschen, J. A. Sexton, C. Hittel, J. Payoczkowski, J. Mawhinney, D. Preis , B. Keppler, J. Warburton, M. Ivanike, D. Minervini,

Absent: Council Member Garcia,

W. R. Comery called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and stated that this meeting of the Shade Tree & Parks Commission, as required, has been made public and posted at Borough Hall.

D. Preis moved to accept January 13th Meeting Minutes, seconded by J. Warburton 7-0 in favor

W. R. Comery re-affirmed the re-organization meeting results from the January 13th meeting: W. R. Comery-Chairman, D. Preis-Vice Chairman, J. Mawhinney-Secretary, and two new members to the Board. In your packet is an updated list of Commissioners, if you need to contact anyone.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

#1. **PSE&G Meeting**: They have to get permits from the Shade Tree & Parks Department. There was a project going on and Lewis Tree trimmed on Pascack Road by Joy's Farm and destroyed some trees. K. Raschen pulled their permits. As of January 1, 2016 the rules from the BPU have changed and K. Raschen, W. R. Comery and J. D'Arco had a meeting with PSE&G. We have a meeting set up with Lewis Tree next Tuesday. There is only going to be 4 crews in town and they will stay in Paramus with no substitutions. They will be in the same area with only General Foreman in charge. They have to get new permits as the other permits have expired. They have to advise the office were they will be working each day by 6:30 a.m. Trees and curbs are marked for removal. We have entered into an agreement with PSE&G for partial replacement of the destroyed trees. The new BPU regulations give PS all sorts of powers. We were the first town that made PS get permits. We have an agreement that they must talk to us and we have a good rapport with them. We will train the crews and supervise them. We will get the four best crews because we care about our trees. The Ash tree will come down and we will get 50% replacement from them. The other half will come out of our nursery.

W. R. Comery handed out the new regulations from BPU. There is a new bill introduced that will take all the authority away from the Commissions. W. R. Comery spoke to J. Lagana, and he is going to check into the bill in Trenton.

#2. **New Age Development (Ashley Furniture)**: They have to move five existing town trees. They are 7" to 14" DBH. They are reconfiguring the front of the building. They got a quote to move the trees. They are now proposing that the remove the trees and then replant 4-6" caliper trees. K. Raschen told them it has to go before the Commission. The quote that they got was for $14,000, which is cheap. J. Sexton said that the project started in 2010. The Landscaping started with Lapatka and then was switched to Page. The trees have grown a little since the start of the project. W. R. Comer said that the trees were planted on the easement, which puts it in our court. We had a problem with them when it started.

C. Hittel moved to go with the Approved Plan, seconded by D. Preis. 7-0 in favor

#3. **Yavneh**: the Recreation Department has entered into an agreement with Yavneh to use their new gym. We supply a Ranger and the Police Department supplies a Special during their games. K. Raschen wants to see the irrigation system in use in the spring. The front should also be sodded. K Raschen doesn't want to get push back because they provided us with gym. W. R. Comery mentioned that we are getting complaints from the neighbors about the way it looks.

#4. **554 Beech Lane**: W. R. Comery and K. Raschen went to the location. There is a question as to whose tree it is. K. Raschen sent Pete Ten Kate, Borough Engineer, the supporting paperwork. The contractor is not happy that it is going to stay. W. R. Comery said that the Commission policy is that we do not remove live healthy trees. He could pay to transplant it, and also any utilities. It is a 10" DBH.

J. Warburton moved that we offer him the option of transplanting, with a guarantee, under our supervision, seconded by D. Minervini. 7-0 in favor

M. Ivanicki wanted to know what happens if the tree dies? W. R. Comery said that he would have to replace it or pay for another tree. It is the aftercare that is important.

#5. **Commissioner List**: In packet.

#6. D. Preis moved to authorize payment of bills, seconded by J. Warburton. 7-0 in favor

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

#1, #2, #3. All three reports were submitted. #3 gives us our immunity to liability.

#4. **Community Forestry Management Plan**: (CFMP): We are working on our 4th management plan. Paul Cowie will be submitting a first draft to us. When the plan is complete we will submit it to the state. W. R. Comery said that we got a $4300 grant for the plan. We have to submit a match of $1300 in in-kind-services.

#5. **2016 Tree Removal/Planting**: In the packet is a report on the removal and planting. There is also an assessment of what is up in the nursery that is available for plating. J. Sexton has paperwork for W. R. Comery as to what is done and what is being cone. K. Raschen sent out an email to see what is available for replenishing the nursery. We may be better off with container instead of bare root. Bare root has gotten very expensive in the past 5 years.

#6. **Sustainable New Jersey**: Under this program, if you are participating, you can apply for grants that other towns cannot apply for. We do this in conjunction with Environmental, Health and DPW. We are in the process of resubmitting.

#7. **CSIP**: This is the grant for tree trimming due to Hurricane Sandy. 125 trees have been trimmed on Morningside Road. The grant was for $20,000 from the state with a match of in-kin-services. This would be for fertilizing the trees 2 times and administration.

#8. **No Net Loss Update**: The Turnpike Authority is working in Paramus on the Parkway. They had to remove a certain amount of trees for this project. They are going to give a $248,000 for 816 trees at $300 each. We must submit a plan to the State of New Jersey. We need to get a consultant for this project because we don't have the staff for this. It is not a grant that we have to match. The Mayor and Council have approved it. We have to pay the consultant to design and oversee the project. It should start in the fall of 2016 and into the fall of 2017. We need to pay approximately $30,000 to the consultant before we can get the money from the state.

AGENDA W. R. Comery wanted to know if anyone has any questions about the agenda items.

GENERAL:
INSURANCE CLAIMS:
LAND USE AND ZONING:
PERSONNEL:

OLD BUSINESS

#1. **Almighty Tree**: They missed that last 2/1 payment. K. Grady called over to Cynthia at the court and she suggested that we contact their attorney. We did and he is also looking for them because they owe him money. They still owe us $1,000. This is why we do not like payment plans.

NEW BUSINESS

#1. **CSIP Damage**: A resident sent an email and said that the tree trimming contractor has dropped a branch and damaged his mailbox. K. Raschen sent back an email that we would have it taken care of.

#2. **December Minutes**: J. Payoczkowski pointed out that in the minutes the address was wrong and 643 Beech should have been 643 Birch.

#3. **D. Minervini**: He made a disclosure that he was the general Manager of All American Ford and their sometime Lawyer. He will recuse himself whenever they come up. W. R. Comery thanked him for letting us know.

D. Preis moved to adjourn meeting at 7:42 p.m., seconded by J. Warburton 7-0 in favor

Respectfully submitted by,

Jill Mawhinney

Jill Mawhinney, Secretary