

**BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 9, 2016**

Attendance: K. Raschen, J. A. Sexton, C. Hittel, J. Payoczkowski, J. Mawhinney, D. Preis, B. Keppler, M. Ivanike, Glen Salsbury, 445 Paramus Road with letter from Rob Wilson 449 Paramus Road.

Absent: Council Member Garcia, W. R. Comery, J. Warburton, D. Minervini

D. Preis called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m. and stated that this meeting of the Shade Tree & Parks Commission, as required, has been made public and posted at Borough Hall.

C. Hittel moved to accept February 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes, seconded by B. Keppler 4-0 in favor

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

#1. 37 Demarest Road: Request for release of Tree Preservation Bond. K. Raschen said that the trees are in good shape and recommended that the bond be released.

B. Keppler moved to release the \$10,000 Bond, seconded by C. Hittel 4-0 in favor

#2. Shake Shack: General Manager requested that the trees being removed should not be replaced due to safety concerns. K. Raschen said there are two Zelkova that are being removed. We are replacing them with Skyline Locust. They have planted ornamental grasses that are more of a safety issue than the town trees.

#3. CORE Training Program: This is through the State of New Jersey. It is being held here at the Life Safety Building on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is one of the programs that gives us our immunity to liability. Because we helped set this up, we are being allowed to have up to seven people go for free. Please let J. Mawhinney know ASAP because class fills up quickly and the one in the fall is in Cherry Hill.

#4. Horticultural Bid: The Bid opening was last week. The awards were approved at last night's Mayor and Council meeting. W. R. Comery and K. Raschen are to come up with a bid for the program. We want to make sure that they don't compromise the trees. There are some residents that had their sidewalks done in 2015 that have not been paid yet. They want their money. J. Sexton said that we have been involved with at least 5 sidewalk lawsuits that thankfully have not involved any town trees.

#6. Anthony Amato: We would like to extend his probation another 3 months because he has not completed his requirement for a CDL License.

B. Keppler moved to extend Amato's probation, seconded by M. Ivanicki. 4-0 in favor

#7. Sports Fields: We are lucky that this year the ground is workable in March. Right now we are working on the low spots at the Sports Plex. It has been re-edged. We started bring in clay today. There is a low spot on the Little League field. When we are finished with the Sports Plex, we will move onto the next field. Someone from Bogota was already using the Petruska Park field. They need permits from Recreation to use the town fields.

#8. Emerald Ash Borer: K. Raschen went to an informational session with W. R. Comery. We want to come up with a plan that is proactive. K. Raschen will have information from Bartlett Tree on the cost of treating the Ash at the next meeting.

Glen Salsbury of 445 Paramus Road arrived at 7:53 pm with a request from Rob Wilson of 449 Paramus Road.

D. Preis stated we will interrupt the Superintendent's report to take care of the resident's complaint.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

#1. Mr. Salsbury said that his neighbor would like the Ash tree changed back to a Sugar Maple. They go with the age of the house and the area. He pointed out that there are Sugar Maples at the golf Course and the Behnke Museum. The trees just went in and they would like them replaced before they grow. K. Raschen recommends that the Commissioners visit the site and discuss it at the next meeting. They will let Mr. Salsbury know their recommendation at that time.

Mr. Salsbury left at 8:02 pm

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONT.**

#9. Payment of Bills: M. Ivanicki moved to authorize payment of bills, seconded by C. Hittel. 4-0 in favor

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#1. Tree Removal: There are 271 trees for winter removal this year. To date we have removed 214. There are 57 left. Four of the trees need PSE&G assistance. There are 131 stumps that need to be ground. For spring planting we will be planting 278 trees. 103 will be coming for the nursery and the rest we will be going out to bid. 12 of the removal location will not be re-planted.

#2. CSIP Update: As of two weeks ago Olmstead Tree completed the trimming for the CSIP Grant. We will be meeting with the contractor for a final. The trees were trimmed to our specifications.

#3. No Net Loss Grant: this grant is from the State to pay us back for the trees they removed from the new interchange at the Parkway and Route 17. We posted a qualification packet on the borough website. We had only one bidder. W. R. Comery and K. Raschen reviewed this bid and recommended to the Mayor and Council that approve it be approved. They approved it at last night's meeting. The form has a Landscape Architect, a GIS and a Licensed Tree Expert.

#4. Community Forestry Management Plan: The preliminary plan has been done. We only received it at 6:30 pm tonight. K. Raschen will be reviewing it.

#5. Sustainable New Jersey: We are certified as Bronze with the state. The rating is only good for three years and this is our third year. Three years ago we had an intern do the application. Now we just have to update. There are several new things that the borough has done that now qualify. The application is due in June, but we have until the end of the year to add.

#6. Earth Day: This year Earth Day will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> in Paramus. Paramus is a distribution center for the State of New Jersey Tree Recovery Seedling Handout program. The delivery date from the state is April 20. They are saying that the labeling and the packaging will be better this year. We will need some assistance on Earth Day in handing out the our seedlings. Earth Day is a "green fair" and it qualifies under Sustainable New Jersey.

#7. ACRT Training: This training is offered to the Tree Crew. This is training for around electrical wires. We have two employees that have completed the new training course and two that will be going on Friday for the recertification course. J. Sexton has reached out to have them get CPR Training through the town. It will cost \$35.00 each and \$5.00 for the manual. The tree crew has to go to the training for the ACRT certification. If All employees go it will be 22 people. This is for safety.

D. Preis asked if there was anything on the Agenda that needs to be discussed.

## AGENDA

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S CORRESPONDENCE:**

- #1. Curb Cuts: We have been getting a lot of curb cut permits without the town trees marked on the plot plan. We send them back. Trees must be on the plan before we will sign off.
- #2. EPIC: there are issues with the landscaping at this location.

### **GENERAL:**

#### **INSURANCE CLAIMS:**

- #1. Verizon: One of their trucks went onto the borough hall lawn. We have pictures.
- #2. PSE&G: They put in a gas line to Tesla and excavated 3-4' away from existing trees. We have a letter from 1998 stating that they are to call us before digging that close to a town tree.
- #3. 84 Hemlock Drive: They have security cameras attached to the town trees.

### **LAND USE AND ZONING:**

### **PERSONNEL:**

## OLD BUSINESS

- #1. Almighty Tree: They were supposed to be in court again one week ago. At 1:30 pm on Monday, he came in to make a payment.. J. Sexton told him that he could not accept it because they were due in court in one hour. They went to court and he paid. As long as they are making good faith payments, you can't go after them. They judge asked him fi a payment in the middle of the month would be easier. He said yes, so it is now on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The judge also instructed him to call if there is a problem. The judge does not want to see him back in court.
- #2. Roots in Lawn: Not right time yet.
- #3. OSHA: We have a few more items to comply with. J. Payoczkowski took care of the ladders and the gas cans. We had to come up with a safety plan. He wanted one for each individual job. K. Raschen sent back a plan for the tree crew and one for the parks crew. He agreed to it. It now goes to PEOSH for review. Our paperwork was too detailed. The last thing is the ACRT training. We were granted an extension because of the time of the classes were being given.
- #4. Imprelis: Justin Santagata will be reaching out to Dupont.
- #5. Spring Valley & Brookfield MVC: The insurance company said that hey paid what they were responsible for, the driver should be responsible for the rest.
- #6. Yavneh Academy: We will want to see the irrigation system running and the front should be sodded. They have to grade before they sod. There will be two town trees planted at the school and 2 more at the house next door which the school owns. The landscaping at the new gym also needs to be done. This all needs to be done to comply with the Approved Landscape Plan. Nothing is being asked of them that is not asked of every other project.

## NEW BUSINESS

none

B. Keppler moved to adjourn meeting at 8:35 p.m., seconded by C. Hittel

4-0 in favor

Respectfully submitted by,



Jill Mawhinney, Secretary