

BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
July 29, 2015

Attendance: J. A. Sexton, W. R. Comery, Council Member Bellinger C. Hittel, J. Payoczkowski, J. Mawhinney, J. Tashjian, B. Rice, K. Grady, K. Raschen, B. Keppler; Lori Takloshian, 314 Dartmouth Court; Mike Soma, 393 Chestnut Street; Marcus Eward, 397 Chestnut Street; Eugene Sinitsyn.

Absent: J. Warburton, D. Preis

W. R. Comery called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and stated that this meeting of the Shade Tree & Parks Commission, as required, has been made public and posted at Borough Hall.

B. Rice moved to accept May 13 Meeting Minutes, seconded by J. Tashjian 5-0 in favor

We will start with the public first.

NEW BUSINESS:

397 Chestnut Street: Mr. Eward is construction a new house and wants to move one tree so he can put in a driveway. He says his neighbor was allowed to move his tree for his driveway. He wants to move it 4' over. We will not remove live healthy trees, but if the tree can be moved, we will, if there is no other way. East Coast Tree moved his neighbor's tree, but it was only a 6" caliper. His is a 12" caliper. Mr. Eward would have to pay East Coast to move the tree under our supervision. This could coast \$5-6,000 to move this size tree. If the Board approves it, we will ask the superintendent to meet with East Coast to give us a price right then. Mr. Eward would also have to pay for moving any service lines if necessary. After he gets the price, Mr. Eward would have to come back to the Commission for permission, if he decides to go ahead. East Coast would give him a one year guarantee. After that any problems with the tree would be the towns.

R. Rice moved for Mr. Eward to go forward, seconded by B. Keppler 5-0 in favor
Mr. Eward left at 7:55 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

314 Dartmouth Court: Mrs. Takooshian could not find the name of the contractor that did the work. We pruned her tree and 10 months later she had the tree trimmed again by the pool. K. Raschen and J. Sexton will go out and re-assess the tree for her and come up with a new amount.
Mrs. Takooshian left at 8:02 pm

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

#1. **393 Chestnut Street:** Mr. Soma said that his tree keeps dropping branches. J. Sexton has been survey the town for winter removals. This tree is one of the trees that J. Sexton has marked for removal this winter. Mr. Soma is also concerned about the tree on the corner by the bus stop.

Mr. Soma left at 8:07 p.m.

#2. **143 Thomas Drive:** One of the trees that Mr. Sinitsyn paid for was planted on his neighbor's property. The other tree is supposed to go on the side of his driveway. This side of the driveway is the only location that he has for the pool company to come through the fence to put in the lift for his wife to use the pool. It has to be put in in the spring and removed in the fall. He has the large gate on that side. He would be willing to donate the tree to one of the parks if we could not plant it on his property.

J. Tashjian moved to plant second tree in a park, seconded by B. Rice. 5-0 in favor
Mr. Sinitsyn left at 8:17 p.m.

#3. **571 Green Valley Road:** K. Raschen and J. Sexton have both reached out to find out how to test the soil at this location. It should cost about \$425-450.00 to have it tested. If the Commission approves they will take 3 samples from around the trunk of the tree. After the test holes are dug, W. R. Comery suggested that Job Tree Stakes be put in the holes.

J. Tashjian moves to approve payment for the testing, seconded by B. Rice. 5-0 in favor

#4. **Skie Drive:** Sweet Gums-they are live healthy trees. W. R. Comery feels that removing the Sweet Gums would be a bad precedent. Every tree has something that someone doesn't like. Council Member Bellinger suggested that we check with Bergen risk. C. Hittel still feels that something should be done.

#5. **All American Ford:** They planted the incorrect plants. We received a call that they received permission to make the change. We checked with Skot Koenig the landscape architect and he said that he did not authorize any changes. And that he would have

contacted us if he wanted any changes. Mr. Liebman wanted to know why we were picking on All American Ford, because we wanted them to change the plants back to the approved planting. The only reason that they went in was because they are 1/3 the price of the authorized plants. If they change them now, they can still use the other plants somewhere else on the property. Otherwise they will die over the winter and they will have to replant with the proper plants at that time. We also received a call from the Mayor regarding this. He said he understood once it was explained to him. This morning we received a letter from Mr. Lapatka stating that he approved the substitutions and he has no objection to them. He had no authority to approve; he is not a landscape architect. They are not in compliance with the landscaping that has been approved by the Paramus Planning Board. The Shade Tree & Parks Commission will not sign off on the Certificate of Occupancy. They took down the town trees and have not put in the buffer for the residents behind them. W. R. Comery read Note #12 to the Commission.

#6. **Motor Vehicle Collision at Route 4 and Forest Avenue:** We billed them for \$1,968.00. They called and asked if we would accept \$1,700.00.

J. Tashjian moved to accept the \$1,700.00, seconded by B. Rice.

5-0 in favor

#7. **Mayor's Bench Program/Memorial Tree Program:** There has been no discussion on the Tree Program. There was no proof reading on the New Letter. We will need to come up with a price.

#8. **Park Repairs:** We will use the mulch that we made at the leaf site. One location, Petruska Park, was done all the way to the major league field. The memorial trees were done with Hammermill and safety cushion was put in the playground. Mr. D'Arco mentioned how nice it looked. We also did the island in the north parking lot for the Farmers Market. Safety cushion was done at Mele Park. The mulch hasn't been done there yet. Council Member Bellinger said there has been a lot of positive feedback. People are seeing the difference in the parks. J. Payo said that we need the Rotary signs back at the parks. Traffic has the sign that is missing from Petruska Park. Thanking them with a recognition sign goes a long way with any group.

#9. **Well Repair – Band Shell:** Mr. D'Arco told K. Raschen to get it done. K. Raschen sent everything we had on the well to Stotoff, who was going to contact Rinbrand for further information on the pump it is so old. Mele Park was repaired and now Faber Park. Faber Park is almost 50 years old. K. Raschen thanked J. Payoczkowski for advising us on what needed to be done. We can mulch all winter as long as there is no snow.

#10. **Fall Planting:** J. Sexton suggested that we do a mapping of the town. We need the list for fall planting, tree stake removal and large dead trees for winter removal and the spring planting list.

#11. **Charges for contract work on emergency basis:** This was last updated in 2010. These are the figures we use when we do motor vehicle collisions and notices of violation.

B. Rice moved to update charges, seconded by J. Tashjian

5-0 in favor

#12. **260 Concord Drive – release of Tree Preservation:** there is an Oak and an Ash. The Ash is OK, the Oak is under stress. There is a lot of dieback and dead wood. The other Oaks on the street look good. This looks like it is from construction. We will trim and fertilize the tree, which will be deducted from the preservation bond. Bond release dates should be from the signing of the Certificate of Occupancy. Make list of any Bonds that are over 5 years old.

#13. **Thank you:** From Sandra Gunderson for the quick service for the sight problem on the corner of Haase Avenue.

#14. **Payment of Bills:** J. Tashjian moved to pay bills, seconded by B. Rice

5-0 in favor

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

#1. **July 4th:** It went well. There were no major issues thanks to the crew. C. Hittel said that the music should be lowered so that you could hear the fireworks.

#2. **PSE&G:** W. R. Comery, K. Raschen and J. Sexton met with PS. The latest that they want to do is upgrade from Haase Avenue along Farview Avenue. Prior to any trimming work, they will have to have someone from Shade Tree with them.

#3. **Planting List Survey:** There are 190 tree stake and 11 planting locations. W. R. Comery will assist with the survey.

#4. **Tennis Court and Basketball Court** have been completed. At Westbrook we have trimmed the tree and cut the roots.

#5. **Equinox:** the green roof has been completed and signed off on. It took about 3 years for it to really take off. We will have to take this into account in the future for any green roofs. They will be required to maintain the green roofs for their C.O.

Council Member Bellinger left at 10:11 p.m.

#6. **Welcome to Paramus sign:** Hank Signs has refurbished the stolen sign. The posts need to be replaced before it can go back up.

OLD BUSINESS

#1. **Imprelis:** the Borough Attorney has sent out several letters to them and has still not heard back.

#2. **Yavneh:** the Certificate of Occupancy has not been signed. Everything there is wrong. We will get a letter out. K. Raschen should meet with Lou Weiss to let him know that the landscaping is required for the C.O.

#3. **Yeshivat Noam:** they are in better shape. W. R. Comery said to check out the landscaping – there is a lot of dead. Get Mr.

Weiss in a sit down for both locations.

- #4. **Royer:** W. R. Comery to send letter to Ray Herr.
- #5. **135 Thomas Drive:** Tree has been removed.
- #6. **Leaf Vac:** It is the wrong color. What is in the specs? W. R. Comery wants it sent back.
- #7. **Holiday Inn Motor Vehicle accident:** Both locations went through their own insurance companies. Check with the Police Department.
- #8. **Brookfield:** J. Santagata sent a letter. J. Sexton spoke with the insurance co. They said that they were only 20% responsible because of the other driver. There was no other driver.
- #9. **CSIP Grant:** We only received one quote, the other two did not reply. W. R. Comery said to deal with Mike Finicarra. Get the cost for winter removals.
- #10. **No Net Loss Grant:** Mr. D'Arco has the signed copy. We met with P. Cowie. The state was missing our Dunn and Dunn & Bradstreet number. J. Sexton sent it to them. P. Cowie is moving forward with the plan.
- #11. **115 Circle Drive:** We met with the Borough Attorney. We received a report from their expert and W. R. Comery reviewed it. We will be going to trial on August 17th.
- #12. **76 Century Road:** J. Sexton did not reach out to PS to tell them they are responsible.
- #13. **Tesla:** Major discrepancies from the Approved Plan. A man came in from California to meet us. He had the original un-approved plan that they worked off of. Sietsma landscaping was there to give them a proposal. The asked B. Weiss to bid on the project also. There were no sleeves for irrigation and they have to go in. Sietsma got the job. They are going to do it in the fall. He will do the irrigation through the drainage pipes.
- #14. **Low Voltage Lighting:** When things slow down, we are going to assess. Up lighting is wanted at the Vets Memorial.
- #15. **Safavieh:** W. R. Comery wants to put this to rest. Originally it was \$8463.00, they offered \$2,000; we will take \$3,500. Go through Justin Santagata to Mr. Stein. J. Sexton to call tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman has no report this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

- #1. **Personnel:** We have two temporaries.
We should have 10 Park Rangers and 3 vehicles.
- #2. **2-way Radios:** J. Payo would like to know when we are getting the 2-way radios back. Send Note to Mr. D'Arco, since the flood we have not had 2-way radios, which is creating a safety issue for the on the road employees and the employees in the building. We need three in the building - one for the Superintendent, one for the Foremen and one for the Secretaries.

W. R. Comery moves to go into closed session, seconded by B. Rice.

B. Rice moves to open meeting, seconded by J. Tashjian.

B. Rice moved to adjourn meeting at 11:00 p.m., seconded by J. Warburton

5-0 in favor

Respectfully submitted by,

Jill Mawhinney
Secretary