

## BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

### MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2020

**Present:** K. Raschen, J. Sexton, W.R. Comery, B. Keppler, D. Preis, A. Les, D. Minervini, C. Hittel, M. Ivanicki, C. DiPiazza, J. Weber

**Absent:**

K. Raschen called the meeting to order at 7:03 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.

K. Raschen moved onto nominations for 2021. W.R. Comery made a motion to appoint D. Preis as Chairman, seconded by C. Hittel. All in favor. The meeting was handed over to D. Pries.

W.R. Comery made a motion to appoint C. Hittel as Vice Chairman, seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor.

D. Pries stated we also have to nominate our secretary. Motion made by B. Keppler to appoint S. Dahl as Commission Secretary, seconded by A. Les. All in favor.

D. Preis asked for a motion to approve last month's minutes. Motion made by B. Keppler, seconded by C. Hittel. All in favor.

**Public:**

**Superintendent's Report:**

**Vivien Court-** K. Raschen stated that an ash tree was removed from the location on Vivien Court, and the resident does not want the tree replaced. K. Raschen explained to the resident that it is the Shade Tree Commission Policy, and will bring it up at the Commission Meeting. Mr. Clark stated Councilman DiPiazza told him he would not have to accept the tree, without talking to Ken, Jay, or anyone else about the issue. W.R. Comery asked if there is ample room for it to be re-planted. K. Raschen stated yes, there is plenty of room, and he offered to work with the resident on the location. K. Raschen also explained to the resident that it is a cherry, which stays small and it a utility friendly tree. C. DiPiazza mentioned that the resident complained about the raked up pile of wood chips. K. Raschen explain to C. DiPiazza that we do not leave piles on anyone's lawn, it is left flat and flush with the grade of the lawn. C. DiPiazza stated he spoke out of ignorance because he only got the resident's side of the story and did not check with Shade Tree. K. Raschen reiterated that it would be extremely beneficial to everyone if our councilmembers got in touch with the department regarding any possible issues or complaints. We cannot provide insight or information if we are not included in the conversations. D. Pries

added it is the Policy of the Commission to replant what is removed. J. Weber asked if this was a policy, W.R. Comery stated the street tree planting policy has been in place for over forty years. W.R. Comery offered to speak to the resident with K. Raschen. K. Raschen stated he would be setting up a meeting to discuss the new planting location.

210 Concord Drive- No issue with one of the trees, the other tree close to the driveway is showing signs of stress. We are not holding the deposit for the second tree permanently. It will be held for the additional 2 years, for a total of 5, and then can be reviewed for release again. It is too early to tell if the tree will fail due to construction activities. Motion made by W.R. Comery to release one tree, hold the other bond for additional two years. motion seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor.

D. Pries asked if we could lump tree preservation releases together if they all have no issues. B. Keppler made a motion to pass multiple releases at once, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor.

Tree Preservation Releases #3-7 – K. Raschen stated there are no issues at these addresses, and all town trees are in good condition. Motion to release made by W. R. Comery, seconded by M. Ivanicki. All in favor.

Tree Planting- K. Raschen informed the commission that excluding the address on Vivien Court, 101 trees have been planted. There was not an opportunity to do planting in the spring due to COVID. Between Barbato finishing planting, PSE&G replacing trees at 2 for 1, and our 101 trees planted – a total of 559 trees were planted in 2020. D. Pries stated the department has done an excellent job, and the planting locations all look great. K. Raschen stated he may pull additional trees from the nursery and continue planting, weather permitting.

Violations- February 1<sup>st</sup> court is scheduled for the ST-1 improper trimming at David Allen Salon, as well as 44 Sycamore Street.

PSE&G Removals- Permission from G. Picone and myself were granted to PSE&G to park at the municipal pool. There are some residents complaining about the trucks and workers in the area. The benefit of them being there is saving the town tens of thousands of dollars in work and tree removals. C. DiPiazza thanked K. Raschen. J. Weber also stated it was approved by the Mayor & Council.

Aerial Bucket truck #402- K. Raschen stated that he reiterates this for the council members present. The large bucket truck #402 is very often out of service. 2021 operating and capital budget information have to be submitted by January 29<sup>th</sup>. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year the department has requested a replacement 402, and the truck is out of service more than its able to be used. J. Weber stated she was told that the truck was not down that often and a new one is in the works for 2021. K. Raschen explained that it takes approximately 16 months to build these

trucks. Therefore, we would be lucky to see it by the summer of 2022. He also stated he hopes to see a council liaison present at this year's budget meeting.

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

### Assistant Superintendent's Report

Year End Reports- Several yearly reports have been submitted including Tree City USA, the Growth Award, Tree Cities of the World, and the NJ Urban Community Forestry Report. Tree Cities of the World has been approved, and we are the only community in NJ participating in this. There are only 68 participating towns/cities worldwide, out of 17 countries.

Annual Report- J. Sexton explained that the Annual Shade Tree Accomplishment report is due April 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be complete before the deadline, and submitted for review. It is currently being worked on.

COVID-19 Update- Shade Tree Department worked every day through the pandemic. Shade Tree along with DPW created our own protocols to keep everyone safe. Thankfully it all worked out. We stocked up on extra cleaning supplies, disinfectant foggers, bleach, gloves, etc. The guys have been great with keeping equipment and the break room clean. Everyone is updated on available COVID testing in the area.

Emerald Ash Borer- Funding should go back to where it was in 2019, so we are hoping there will be overtime available for ash tree removals again. K. Raschen and J. Sexton met with Mr.D'Arco re ash removal overtime, and it will also take winter emergency overtime into consideration. Once the weather breaks we will be aiming for two full Saturdays a month for ash removals. Ash removals did continue throughout the pandemic. PSE&G has also provided wonderful assistance with ash removals in their work zones.

Regarding treatment, J. Sexton explained that with the issues from the contractor this past year, we will need to find a new vendor for the final round of treatment. There were for too many problems with SavATree.

### Chairman's Report-

#### New Business -

C. Hittel asked the commission if there were any oppositions to starting all the meeting at 7:00 pm instead of 7:30. W.R. Comery stated he had no issues, as well as D. Minervini and D. Pries. A motion was made to begin the Shade Tree Commission Meetings at 7:00 p.m. by C. Hittel, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor.

#### Old Business-

Land Use-

Personnel-

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:49 pm made by W. R. Comery, seconded by C. Hittel. All in favor