

BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2022

Present: K. Raschen, D. Pries, B. Keppler, C. Hittel, W.R. Comery, M. Ivanicki, A. Les, A. Antonio

Absent: J. Sexton, D. Minervini

K. Raschen called the meeting to order at 7:04 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.

B. Keppler made a motion to appoint C. Hittel as Vice Chairman, seconded by M. Ivanicki. All in favor.

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

D. Pries asked for a motion to approve last month's minutes. Motion made by M. Ivanicki, seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor.

Public: no public

Superintendent's Report:

Tree Preservation Release – 189 Lozier Court K. Raschen stated there are no issues on file, and recommends release for this address. Motion made to release tree preservations made by A. Les, seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor.

Budget- A meeting is scheduled for Monday for operating. As prices increase, budget does not. We are not the only department having similar issues with pricing increases from vendors. We are also concerned with the fact that 2022 Capital meetings have not been set up for discussion. Attempts have been made to appeal to the Mayor and Council regarding Emerald Ash Borer projections and we have not received a response. We cannot neglect our other responsibilities due to the EAB infestation. We are trying to stay on top of all of our responsibilities with minimal resources.

Equipment- the 2021 Capital funds only covers half of the equipment it was allocated for. The amount approved only covers the grapple, not the truck it would need to be attached to in order to function. We have asked to have this money re-allocated for equipment that needs replacing. We have 14 pieces of equipment that need repair, and 4 out of service. The longer

we wait, the more prices go up. An itemized list will be provided to the mayor and council regarding the equipment that needs replacing, and total costs. It would not exceed the allocated amount. This would provide us with 11 pieces of equipment we desperately need.

Motion made to draft letter in support made by W.R. Comery, seconded by M. Ivanicki. All in favor.

PSEG- Trimming – N.G. Gilbert has been responding well and are getting the proper permits. Glen is keeping an eye on them as they work in town. They have assisted with ash removals and will continue to lend support when possible.

Spring Planting- K. Raschen is working on getting quotes for spring planting. Looking to get approximately 165 trees.

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

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Year End Reports- All data has been reviewed and submitted for 2021/2022.

ACRT- Three individuals are going for their yearly ACRT certification for trimming/line clearance. The class is Monday, February 14th.

Tree Climber- We have received one applicant so far for the tree climber position.

Chairman's Report-

New Business - Motion made to move the Shade Tree Commission meetings from Borough Hall, back to the first floor of the Life Safety Complex, Shade Tree and Parks office. Motion made by C. Hittel, seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor.

Old Business-

Land Use-

Personnel-

Motion to adjourn meeting made by W.R. Comery, seconded by M. Ivanicki. All in favor