

BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2021

Present: K. Raschen, J. Sexton, A. Les , D. Preis, B. Keppler, D. Minervini, C. Hittel , J. Weber, C. DiPiazza, M. Ivanicki Elizabeth Kinosian, Gail Horton

Absent: W.R. Comery

D. Preis 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.

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

Public:

Elizabeth Kinosian, Gail Horton - 144 Arcola Avenue

Mrs. Kinosian asked if the trees would be replaced. D. Pries explained that as per the independent assessment, there are no issues with the trees at this point. They are live healthy trees, and live healthy trees are not removed. The current removal policy was explained to Mrs. Kinosian. Mrs. Kinosian expressed her disappointment, and thinks the issue is that the trees are too okay, too big and too much. She reiterated her concerns regarding her unique lot where they have lived 17 years, and unique property, and lack of basement. She also stated there are addresses that do not have town trees and they should have trees planted. K. Raschen explained that trees are only removed when they become a risk, and town trees are not removed for no reason. D. Pries stated the trees were there when you moved in. Mrs. Kinosian stated no one told them anything. D. Pries reiterated that it is the policy of the Shade Tree Commission to not remove live, healthy town trees. Mrs. Kinosian stated it would be ideal to remove the two by the driveway, and only replace one of the two removed. Mrs. Kinosian then called back into the meeting stating she could not wait until July 28th for a response. D. Pries stated a letter will be sent within 2 weeks responding to her concerns. J. Sexton stated that the commission has offered options for all issues stated (driveway, roots, lawn, sidewalks). An engineering report was also done by the Borough engineer who found no issues evident. D. Pries suggested sending a letter outlining their options and include the independent certified tree expert report. A. Les stated they are asking for a financial favor, and it would not be fair to make people who have trees in need of removal to wait, because they do not like their town trees. A. Les also stated he has identical frontage, and 6 trees. D. Pries stated he has a town tree 12 feet from his foundation and has no issues. Motion made not to remove, and to send options in a letter by C. Hittel, seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor.

Superintendent's Report:

267 Henry Street, 165 Thomas Drive – K. Raschen stated there are no issues at these addresses. Motion to release made by C. Hittel, seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor.

346 Elliot Place- K. Raschen suggested holding for an additional year as the tree is showing signs of possible decline. Motion to hold made by C. Hittel, seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor.

Planting- 94 trees have been planted with 47 remaining. Letters have been handed out to residents informing them to water the trees for a better survival rate.

Removals- Ash removals are continuous, a lot of calls are coming in regarding ash trees and the option to remove the ash trees themselves is offered if they do not want to wait on the EAB removal plan. There have also been issues with mark-outs by call before you dig, which is halting some stump removals.

47 N. Farview Avenue- Requesting we replace yews after a tree failed during a tropical storm. The yews were around the base of the tree in the planting easement. It is possible replacing them will create a line of sight issue. Motion made to send letter denying replacement of yews made by B. Keppler, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor.

Aerial Bucket Truck #402- K. Raschen stated there have been no updates on 2021 Capital.

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

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Sidewalks- 81 locations are currently pending, waiting on 2021 funding for the program to continue.

Roots in the Lawn- the program is complete for spring. 12 locations were completed and there are currently 3 addresses added onto the fall program. 13 locations that did not return both copies of hold harmless forms sent were taken off of the list.

Policy Manual- Comments, and changes have been added/made. This was reviewed with the Borough Attorney, and has been updated. Motion to adopt changes made by B. Keppler, seconded by C. Hittel. All in favor.

Ordinance #129- Minor changes were made, and was reviewed by the Borough Attorney. Motion to adopt changes made by C. Hittel, seconded by B. Keppler. All in favor.

Chairman's Report

New Business -

Mrs. Horton attended the meeting to express concern regarding the buffer planting at Behnke Senior Housing, because one of the trees planted is brown. K. Raschen explained that although we orchestrated the planting, the trees are the caretaker's responsibility to water, and care for the trees. J. Sexton and K. Raschen stated they would reach out to Laura at affordable housing regarding the trees.

K. Raschen stated there are a lot of complaints coming in regarding many of the field locations that Shade Tree is no longer maintaining. Shade Tree and Parks does not need the bad perception. We took pride in taking care of these locations and keeping them in good condition.

J. Weber and C. DiPiazza asked why Shade Tree and Parks hangs banners and lowers/raises flags. K. Raschen stated he is unsure, and can send a list of locations to them.

Old Business-

Land Use-

Personnel-

Motion to adjourn meeting made by B. Keppler, seconded by M. Ivanicki. All in favor