

BOARD OF SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2021

Present: K. Raschen, A. Les, D. Preis, B. Keppler, D. Minervini, C. Hittel, M. Ivanicki

Absent: W.R. Comery, J. Sexton

D. Preis called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 B. Keppler, seconded by C. Hittel. All in favor.

Public: no public

Superintendent's Report:

Tree Preservation Release – K. Raschen stated there are no issues with release for 235 Hoppers Lane, 233 Concord Drive, 95 Benton Road, and 459 Nevada Street. Motion made to release by D. Minervini, seconded by A. Les. All in favor. K. Raschen's recommendation is to hold 165 Stuart Street for an additional two years as the tree looks like it may be struggling. In regard to 72 Lotus Lane, one of the trees has been removed, and there are ST-1 Violations for this address. His recommendation is to hold the preservation fee for the maple tree which had to be removed. We will not hold the preservation for the ash tree that was removed. A motion was made to hold 165 Stuart Street for an additional two years, and release all preservation for 72 Lotus Lane excluding the maple tree. Motion made by A. Les seconded by C. Hittel. All in favor.

652 East Beverwyck Place- This address had large ash trees, and does not want any replacement trees. Residents asked to bring this to the commission. K. Raschen explained we do not re-plant ash, and plant utility-friendly trees. It is the policy of the Commission to replace any town trees that are removed. Motion to deny the request for no replacement tree made by C. Hittel, seconded by M. Ivanicki. All in favor.

Tree Planting- There are approximately 147 trees to be planted this fall. There are slight price increases on trees this year, but the order will be placed shortly. The planting season will be extended to ensure all locations are completed.

Removals- K. Raschen explained he had discussions with J. Weber regarding residents concerned about Ash trees. K. Raschen asked if she had reviewed the packets sent regarding

needing assistance with larger removals, equipment, trucks, and chippers. We currently have only three tree climbers, and still have to maintain 30,000 live trees. K. Raschen explained himself and W.R. Comery were asked in the past to come before the council regarding ash trees and asked for equipment, manpower, and so on but it never materialized. Since mid-June to now, 68 ash trees have been removed. We are doing all the work with two tree trucks. D. Pries asked about how many removals can be completed in a day. K. Raschen stated 22"-28" trees, about 6 can be removed a day without a crane. We are also working two Saturdays a month removing ash trees exclusively. We are leaving the stalks of Ash trees, the canopy of branches is removed to eliminate possible hazards.

Aerial Bucket Truck #402- replacement 402 has been approved for 1st phase capital and are hoping to receive the truck by 2023. K. Raschen stated he will be meeting with G. Picone and Timmerman to go over specs.

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

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Sidewalks- Capital has been approved for 2021 for the Sidewalk Program which should be available mid-September. Once we have a start date from the contractors, sidewalks will be marked.

2021 Shade Tree Federation Conference- It is supposed to be in person this year on October 21-22. Two individuals need to attend for CEU's. D. Preis stated he would check his availability.

Chairman's Report-

New Business -

Valley Hospital requested to plant trees as part of their landscape plan that they would like to maintain. Documents were received, sent to the borough attorney, and reviewed and signed by D. pries.

K. Raschen is awaiting a site meeting with the individuals from Atlantic Health Systems regarding the landscape plan which does not coincide with the approved landscape plan on file.

Old Business-

Land Use-

Personnel-

Motion to adjourn meeting made by D. Minervini, seconded by D. Minervini. All in favor