

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MINUTES

JANUARY 9, 2014

OPENING: In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided. The meeting opened at 2:00 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

ROLL CALL: Jay Schatz, Sue Wichterman, Herb Pharo, Bill Zackey, Gerry Beauchamp, Jack Wichterman, present. Fiore Mannella, Barbara Preminger, Tim Swanson and George Ator are excused.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Herb and seconded by Sue to approve the December 12, 2013 minutes. The motion carried with 1 abstention.

CORRESPONDENCE:

-A letter was sent to 263 Grant St. re the hollow sycamore tree.

-A letter of support was sent to CM Co., Open Space re Grant for CMHS Colonial House and they got the grant.

-A letter was sent to City Att'y. Monzo re: our denying tree removal permit to Guinan at 1033 New York Ave. We have gotten no reply from Monzo.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: Money encumbered for end of year 2013 spending: \$9,970.

Douglass Monument-we still owe them \$450.

Susan Murphy-sidewalk damage \$1,195.00

Top Notch-new tree plantings-\$3,785

Mohr Masonry-sidewalk openings-\$600.

Surrar Nursery- delivered 20 trees-\$1990

Menear-to reduce and remove trees-\$2,235.

Tree Maintenance: Fiore removed stump at 17 Stockton Place and put crushed stone in hole at 315 Jackson St. (Mini Golf). Jay showed us part of a tree stump from 307 Philadelphia Ave, which was damaged by a weed whacker and ultimately died.

Tree Removal Permits Approved: December 2-\$50.00

Breath-1150 Virginia Ave (large Locust) and Stinette at 1361 Virginia Ave. (backyard Pine)

Memorial Tree: Plaque for Shea put on Carpenter's Lane & Perry St.

Plaque for Crawford (Valera) will be put in park at Mass. Ave. & Vermont.

Subdivision Appls:

712 Kearney Ave.-approved, no trees involved.

1106 Missouri Ave-Danzi, approved, no trees involved.

Missouri & Pittsburgh-DiDonato subd. Approved.

1628 New York Ave. corner on Wilmington Approved-no trees involved.

Osprey Landing-1263 Lafayette Ave. We will request more information. (Herb's grandfather used to own that property.)

OLD BUSINESS:

The new trees had very large root balls requiring larger cut-outs in the sidewalk to accommodate them. We must tell George to get only trees with smaller root balls. Wyatts on Windsor Ave. did not get a new tree because they took it upon themselves to move the street tree planted last year to another location and it died. According to Gerry, there really was no room to put a tree in on the street. A Red Bud would work there.

Jay has to go to Court in Tuckahoe tomorrow in connection with a trip and fall claim at 33 2nd Avenue where a dead tree was removed, but we don't recall any sidewalk problems.

NEW BUSINESS: Jack said it looks like we will receive about the same amount (32,000) of money in 2014. It looks like the new tax rate will increase by 2 cents.

The new subdivision at 412-414 W. Perry St. did not get approval from the HPC. It is at Claghorn Place and W. Perry Street. Jay and Gerry will look at it.

Sidewalks: A letter was sent to Manager MacLeod requesting funds to replace sidewalks. The list of people who have called for the 50/50 plan over the past few years numbers about 45. Jack said the money for this would come out of the City's Capital Improvements. We should know in a month or so how much money we can use for sidewalks. In 2003, we received \$100,000 in a grant and stretched out the money thru the 50/50 plan. The city owns the sidewalks and 6' in front. Herb said architect's drawings will tell you where property line is, and utility lines are usually 18" in from property line.

The Queen Victoria replaced their own sidewalk on Columbia Ave. as a result of trip and fall. Jay pointed out very few communities have a 50/50 sidewalk program.

ADJOURN: A motion to adjourn was made by Herb and seconded by Gerry. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Sue Wichterman, Secretary