

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Shade Tree Commission held on November 2, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the Borough Chambers. Present at roll call were:

Present: Mrs. Margaret Law
Mr. Donald Salerno, Vice Chairman
Mr. C. David Visscher
Mr. Lloyd Williams, Chairman
Mr. David Dubee
Councilwoman Laurie Fu (arrived at 2:28 p.m.)
Absent: Mr. Lawrence Travaglia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been published and posted in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Law of 1975, "Open Public Meetings Act."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Visscher moved that the minutes of the Commission's October 5, 2016 Regular Meeting be approved, seconded by Mr. Williams. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Williams opened this portion of the meeting to comments from the public. Seeing no one he then closed this portion of the meeting.

BUDGET

Mr. Williams commented that the 2016 budget is fully depleted and currently there is a \$-2,531.60 balance.

The Commission Secretary explained what she did since the last meeting concerning the budget and added that Councilwoman Fu stated that there are still some grant funds remaining, but she is uncertain of exactly how much. Mr. Dubee has advised that the remaining balance due can be paid in January 2017.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Mr. Dubee presented his report.

31 Grove Avenue – Forester stated the (2) 12"-24" trees need pruning: trees to be placed on Worksheet for early 2017.

12 Winding Way – Forester stated (1) 24"-36" tree needs pruning: trees to be placed on Worksheet for early 2017.

Mr. Williams stated this Resolution relates to a second extension of the Borough's contract with Greenwood Tree and it allows authorization of this extension without seeking bids. Next year the bid process will need to be conducted.

Mr. Salerno moved to authorize the extension of the existing forestry contract and recommendation to the Council, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Williams provided information about his and Councilwoman Fu's attendance at the State Shade Tree Commission conference in Atlantic City on Saturday. They attended the workshop on taking inventories of municipal trees (trees planted in rights of way). They believe based on the information they received in this workshop that the State will require such an inventory within the next several years. He anticipates that when this inventory is conducted it will require the hiring of specific people to actually do this project. He advised that Morristown hired a company to conduct this inventory there.

Mrs. Law asked if the others remember when this was last done. Unfortunately, the people who were hired had some difficulties in identifying a tree from a bush. She provided additional commentary on the actions that might be necessary to successfully accomplish this task.

Cross discussion among Commission members, the Commission Secretary, and Mr. Dubee.

Mr. Salerno asked what is the purpose of doing such an inventory. Is it really necessary?

Various Commission members commented as to their thoughts on the matter of this inventory being done.

Mr. Dubee provided information on what kinds of actions will be done during the timeframe the survey is being done, such as entering information as the survey is being done providing the species, the tree's condition and similar kinds of data. Information would also be provided as to tree locations. It is time consuming and possibly at least somewhat costly.

Mr. Williams advised that the State's stance on the Ash Beetle at this time is that "if this beetle is going to come in, it's going to take over and there's nothing we can do about it." Treating the trees to try and save them is still recommended. But, the bottom-line prediction is that "within the next five to ten years, we are going to lose all the Ash trees. Nobody is safe." He also advised that some municipalities (in Bergen County) are fighting against the Ash Beetle by cutting down trees.

Cross discussion about Ash trees within the Borough, including that there may be about 30 Ash trees on Laurel Street; there are other Ash planted throughout the Borough – some of which are "borderline municipal trees" and others that are on private property.

Mr. Dubee advised there are not that many Ash trees in the Borough.

Mr. Dubee provided information on what his experience has been in dealing with this Ash Beetle as well as what he knows about what other municipalities are doing to combat this problem. He also provided a description of what exactly is done to treat affected trees.

Mrs. Law asked what the best course of action is for the Borough to take now.

Mr. Williams responded that Mr. Dubee has identified Ash trees in the Borough. The ones on Laurel Street are being treated, while others did not appear that they would benefit from this treatment.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Salerno referred to signing off on approving the plan at the affordable living site. He has signed off on this plan. Last week as he was driving on Speedwell Avenue, Mr. Salerno noticed someone removing a very large tree. It was a 24" to 36" tree. He circled around to come back to the site where this was happening and challenged the person doing this work. After researching this matter, he learned that Jersey Central would not connect power with the tree there. The Mr. Leon Hall, Borough Engineer, said that the tree should be removed. He does not understand what the precise problem was for Jersey Central – there was a building there before that was connected for power. Why is this a problem for them now? He advised of several other comments/brief discussions and also the question was asked as to whether the desire would be to replace the tree. He told them that the stump must be removed.

Councilwoman Fu advised that the Resolution referred to earlier in these minutes does not need to be read into the minutes, and that the Council will act on it. She wanted the Commission members to be aware of it. This will be addressed at the Council's November 10, 2016 meeting.

Mr. Williams advised he discussed the meeting they attended in Atlantic City, the tree inventory that will need to be done at some point during the next few years, and the issues with the Ash Beetle.

Mr. Williams called Barbato, but they have not yet returned his call. He indicated to Barbato in his voice mail message that the Commission is expecting the planting of the replacement trees to be done during November.

REPORT OF COUNCILWOMAN FU

Councilwoman Fu provided an update on issues relating to the final closure of the State tree planting grant. There have been problems in dealing with some of the representatives from the State office in connection with this grant. At the Atlantic City meeting, she met that last person she was dealing with – he told her he was no longer involved and provided another name and contact information. She has followed up with this person and is hoping this person will help with the tracking down of the last two grant reimbursements.

Councilwoman Fu commented on the budget stating she believes that a transfer will be able to be made this month.

Mr. Williams advised that Mr. Dubee has agreed to wait to accept payment until January 2017. Several work projects were authorized earlier in the meeting, and they were placed on the work sheet.

She advised of the recent dedication of the Southeast Morris Community Municipal Utilities Authority (SMCMUA) Mountain Way pumping station in memory of Bob Carroll. While at

this event, she noticed several trees that will need to be addressed “sooner rather than later” since they are dropping many branches.

Mr. Salerno believes the property these trees are on is owned by the SMCMUA.

Councilwoman Fu offered to show Mr. Salerno which trees she is referring to.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Salerno moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Karen M. Coffey
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Shade Tree Commission held on October 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Chambers. Present at roll call were:

Present: Mr. Lawrence Travaglia
Mr. C. David Visscher
Mr. Lloyd Williams, Chairman
Councilwoman Laurie Fu
Mr. David Dubee

Absent: Mrs. Margaret Law
Mr. Donald Salerno, Vice Chairman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been published and posted in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Law of 1975, "Open Public Meetings Act."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Travaglia moved that the minutes of the Commission's September 7, 2016 Regular Meeting be approved, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor.

Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Williams opened this portion of the meeting to comments from the public.

Mr. Anthony Gentile introduced himself to the Commission. He stated they live at **32 Malapardis Road, Morris Plains**. He referred to a notice he had seen about two years that alerted Borough residents to the fact that "we will be planting 100 trees and if you need a tree or want a tree, let us know." He did call the number provided and believes he spoke with Mr. Williams. He remembers they were given a pamphlet in order to select the kind of tree they would like planted. They then signed up to have a tree planted, a flowery type of tree. He stated they then received a call from Mr. Williams who told them they could not receive the tree they selected since a decision was made that everyone would have the same tree planted or words to that effect. They are not at all happy with this tree – it does not bloom and it does not appear to grow. Is there any chance they would be able to have this tree replaced? He showed photos of how this tree looks now.

Mr. Williams stated he does recall visiting Mr. Gentile at his house and also calling him at a point in time.

Mr. Gentile thought they were receiving a tree that at maturity would be approximately 25' to 30'; he was hoping for some shade for the front lawn area.

Mr. Williams does not believe the tree is dead.

Mr. Gentile concurred with this statement. Is there another tree planting program that he can sign up for?

Mr. Williams explained how the Commission's tree planting program works. "The trees that were planted are not huge trees."

Mr. Gentile stated that if the Borough/Commission is not able to help them with this request, he will take out this tree and purchase and plant a new one on his own.

Councilwoman Fu provided information about the State grant program that these trees were planted under, including that a State inspector will visit the Borough to check on the trees that were planted to be sure they are still alive two years after the grant project is completed. The project was completed in spring 2016. Since the Borough received credit for the trees planted and the State paid for them, the Borough would need to repay the State for trees that are not there/still alive when the inspection is done.

Cross discussion about how this situation can best be resolved, including how "town property" is determined. The Borough right-of-way is 10'.

Councilwoman Fu advised she would need to check her records to determine exactly when the tree at Mr. Gentile's property was planted to know when the two-year mark would be reached. She also wants to know the kind of tree it is. Since this is a Borough tree, Mr. Gentile would have to come before the Commission with his official request to take this tree down in order to get the Commission's permission to remove the tree.

Mr. Gentile stated the tree is 12' from the curb – is it a Borough tree or his tree?

Councilwoman Fu explained that at planting, effort is made to avoid wires. Also, if there are wires, usually trees that will only grow a certain height are selected for planting.

Mr. Dubee offered to check on this tree further. Since the tree is still alive, why not "try to do everything that can be done for it and hope for a rebound in the spring." At that point the situation can be assessed again. He provided information as to the kind of work he believes may help this tree thrive.

Mr. Gentile requested that he be informed when Mr. Dubee plans to visit. He also provided his telephone number – (973) 540-8541.

Mr. and Mrs. Gentile thanked the Commission for its time and consideration.

Cross discussion about the 32 Malapardis Road tree and what the plans are to try and save it and make it become a thriving tree.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Simpson introduced themselves to the Commission, stating they live at **200 Mountain Way, Morris Plains**. Mr. Simpson advised that a large tree branch fell down on their property. The next morning the DPW staff was there to work on the tree that the branch fell from. They are at this meeting to express their thanks and appreciation for the work that was done on the tree by the DPW staff.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Mr. Dubee presented his report.

23 Burch Drive – Forester stated that this matter is already taken care of.

15 Parker Drive – Forester stated that (1) 24"-36" tree w/stump needs to be taken down.

18 Jaqui Avenue – Forester stated that (1) 12"-24" tree needs pruning and 15' of cable. Ms. Falco, the resident at 20 Jaqui Avenue has requested she be notified of the work. The Commission Secretary provided Ms. Falco's telephone number.

39 Janeway Place – Forester stated that (2) 12"-24" trees need pruning. Trees are on the side of the property on Bryce Way.

11 Bryce Way – Forester stated that (2) 12"-24" trees need pruning.

29 Parker Drive – Forester stated (1) 12"-24" tree needs pruning.

23 Laurel Street – Forester stated (1) 12"-24" tree w/stump needs to be taken down.

1 Park Way – Forester stated this tree is fine; it has a bit of leaf disease. It will be healthy in 2017; nothing needs to be done now. To be placed on worksheet.

Davenport Avenue/Sun Valley Way – Forester stated (1) 24"-36" needs to be pruned; (1) 12"-24" taken down w/stump.

7 Laurel Street – Forester stated that (1) 24"-36" w/stump needs to be taken down.

Jaqui Avenue – Forester stated that (1) 24"-36" tree w/stump needs to be taken down. Tree is located between 19 & 23 Jaqui Ave.

BUDGET

The Commission Secretary reported that the current budget balance is \$356.40. She asked the Commission members how they wish to proceed.

Councilwoman Fu recommended attempting to acquire additional funds that can be used through now until the end of the year. She will discuss the possibility of this with the Finance Department, but nothing can happen prior to November.

Cross discussion as to how best to prioritize work that needs to be done since some may be more critical than other work.

Mr. Dubee made suggestions as to work he believes can wait until 2017.

Councilwoman Fu advised she will keep the Commission informed as to her success in acquiring more funds through the balance of this year.

Continued cross discussion on possible other work that can be deferred until 2017. This discussion also included on the possibility of how emergency work will be able to be done such as any damage from hurricanes or other weather events.

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Williams moved that the Work Orders as discussed be approved, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor.

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

Mr. Williams reported on his telephone discussion with Barbato and advised they have agreed to replace some of the “problem” trees. They will come to do this replacement tree work during the fall. He commented that some of the trees along Tabor Road do not look very good.

Councilwoman Fu believes that at least two of these trees are dead; these trees will need to be replaced by the Commission. She and Mr. Dubee discussed some other trees and situations that may or may not be able to be replaced by Barbato; she will need to check her records to determine when certain trees were planted. She also requested that Mr. Dubee check the Route 53 trees and let her know the condition of these trees and if any of them are not surviving.

Mr. Williams raised the subject of the curbing problem on Canfield Place and asked if Mr. Salerno had reported anything new.

Councilwoman Fu advised she believes that the curbing was removed, and the problem was solved. She asked about a tree that was discussed at the last meeting: 123 Glenbrook Road.

Mr. Dubee stated the tree was actually behind the house and in/near Roberts Garden.

PRESENTATION OF COUNCILWOMAN FU

Councilwoman Fu advised of a recent County-sponsored program about the Ash Borer. She asked if there are any more signs of this appearing in the County.

Mr. Dubee replied not in Morris County. He mentioned several areas where it is showing up: Montclair and Bridgewater have been confirmed. He is not aware of any problems in Morris County.

Councilwoman Fu asked if the same trees should be treated again next year as were treated this year.

Mr. Dubee said the treatment used this year is good for one year, so the next treatment would be in the spring. He will continue to follow notices about this from the State. He is continuing to treat other trees and many people are concerned.

Brief cross discussion about the conference that will be held over the Halloween weekend in Atlantic City. Councilwoman Fu and Mr. Williams will be attending.

PSE&G continues to perform work within the Borough.

Mr. Williams commented on the good job that was done by the Borough in repaving the Library parking lot. A number of bushes were also removed. He believes the landscaping at the Library looks much better as a result.

Councilwoman Fu continued reminding that the Wellness Day Fair takes place on Saturday, October 15, 2016 at the Community Center. She also reminded that the Bonfire will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2016 and the Halloween Parade and party will be on Monday, October 31, 2016. She congratulated the Borough's Police Department on the receipt of their re-accreditation this year. There are more than 470 police units in the State and only 160 are accredited. Only 8% of 160 are re-accredited.

The Commission Secretary double checked with Councilwoman Fu and Mr. Williams as to the course(s) they want to attend at the upcoming conference in Atlantic City.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Travaglia moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor.

Motion carried.

Karen M. Coffey
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Shade Tree Commission held on September 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Chambers. Present at roll call were:

Present: Mrs. Margaret Law
Mr. Lawrence Travaglia
Mr. C. David Visscher
Mr. Lloyd Williams, Chairman
Councilwoman Laurie Fu
Mr. David Dubee
Absent: Mr. Donald Salerno, Vice Chairman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been published and posted in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Law of 1975, "Open Public Meetings Act."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Visscher moved that the minutes of the Commission's July 6, 2016 Regular Meeting be approved, seconded by Mr. Travaglia. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Williams opened this portion of the meeting to comments from the public. Hearing none, he closed this portion of the meeting.

BUDGET

Mr. Williams advised the current budget balance is \$18,422.40.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

Mr. Williams asked the Commission Secretary whether Mr. Salerno had given her any feedback on the issues he was going to check out as discussed at the July meeting.

The Commission Secretary stated yes and provided the following information:

55 Franklin Place - Purchase Ordered #100092 – (1) 12"-24" pruned.

24 Idlewild Drive. This tree situation was taken care of.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Mr. Dubee presented his report.

Franklin Pl./Keenan Place – Forester stated (1) 36"+ needs pruning.

25 Washington Avenue – Forester stated (1) 12"-24" w/stump needs to be taken down; (1) 24"-36" needs pruning.

12 Jaqui Avenue – The DPW staff took the tree down and removed the stump.

6 Greenwood Road – Forester advised it is one of the new trees; it needs to be fertilized and watered. The DPW staff will be requested to water this tree.

End of Academy Road – Councilwoman Fu advised it is another one of the new trees; it needs to be fertilized and watered. The DPW staff will be requested to water.

Mr. Dubee advised the leaves are drying out. He asked if the Greenwood Road and Academy Road trees are still under warranty.

Councilwoman Fu stated neither tree is under warranty at this time.

Leamoor Drive and Sun Valley Way – Forester stated (1) 36"+ w/stump be taken down.

35 Parker Drive – Forester stated that (1) 24"-36" tree w/stump be taken down.

56 Dogwood Road – Forester stated that (1) 24"-36" tree w/stump be taken down.

119 Littleton Road – Forester stated that (1) 24"-36" tree be pruned. Tree is actually on Malapardis Road.

23 Academy Road – Forester stated that (1) 24'-36" w/stump and (1) 36"+ w/stump to be taken down.

Janeway Place (Park) – Forester stated (1) 24"-36" tree needs pruning.

29 Parker Drive – Forester stated that the DPW staff took care of this request.

38 Parker Drive – Forester stated that tree has been removed but (1) 12"-24" stump needs to be grounded.

69 Watnong Drive – Forester stated (1) 24"-36" tree needs pruning.

7 Greenwood Road – Forester stated (1) 24"-36" tree needs pruning.

41 Parker Drive (rear of property) - Forester stated (2) 24"-36" trees need pruning.

Pool Path - Forester (2) 12"-24" trees need pruning and (1) 12"-24" needs to be taken down no stump.

52 Winding Way – Forester stated (1) 24"-36" tree needs to be fertilized.

54 Winding Way – Forester stated (1) 24"-36" tree needs to be fertilized.

40 Janeway Place – Forester stated that (1) 24"-36" and (1) 12"-24" need to be pruned.

5 Briarcliff Road – Forester stated (1) 36"+ needs to be pruned. The tree is actually located between 7 Briarcliff Road and 5 Briarcliff Road.

APPROVAL OF WORK ORDER PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Visscher moved that the work items identified be approved, seconded by Mr. Travaglia. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

WORK SHEETS

The Commission Secretary requested that 37 Canfield Place remain on the sheet because Mr. Salerno is still investigating aspects of this situation.

Mr. Dubee also commented on this situation.

Councilwoman Fu reminded that this location involves the issue of the Belgian block. She said to keep it on the work sheet.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Williams commented on the recently concluded tree planting work, noting that some of the trees will have to be replaced. He stated that any tree that dies within two years would have to be replaced. He advised that some trees died within the first year and were replaced only to die again within the second year.

Cross discussion about how long does the “within two years” replacement process continue – how long does the responsibility last for the tree planting contractor; that Councilwoman Fu will continue to negotiate with the tree planting contractor for a fair agreement on this matter; are the trees possibly dying due to a soil problem; that some of the dead trees have already been taken down by property owners; and how best to approach replanting.

Councilwoman Fu has prepared a list of the trees she is asking the tree planting contractor to replace. She provided information as to the location of many of the trees that have died since being planted as part of this grant program. She believes the contractor should be responsible for replacing the identified trees. All the grant paperwork has been submitted, and there is a new person for her contact. Reimbursement should be received soon.

Cross discussion about how to proceed if the tree planting contractor denies its responsibility to provide new trees, including that Mr. Williams believes that at least some of the trees should be replaced.

Mr. Dubee said that now would not be a good time to be planting new trees, but hopefully in another month or so, if the weather cooperates, it should be a good time to plant. Planting can be done up until the time the ground freezes. Fall planting would be better than spring planting. Planting could be done in October and even into November. He added that he believes many trees will “come back” in the spring. He would wait until next year and “not jump the gun and start replacing the trees.” He felt that perhaps it would be best to replace trees that were taken down and at a limited number of other locations, but not replacing all of the other trees.

Mr. Williams recommended waiting until the Commission hears back from Barbato to make a final decision; perhaps an inventory could be conducted to help the Commission decide what trees to replace this year and what trees to wait on until next year.

Councilwoman Fu advised she is planning to prepare a letter for three trees: 15 Parker Drive, 17 Parker Drive, and 319 Mountain Way. The letter to residents will advise that the Commission is planning to replant trees in the fall. She also plans to ask the DPW staff to remove certain tree supports.

Mr. Williams stated that if a final decision on how to proceed can be made in early October, the plans for planting should be able to be carried out. He added that it will be fine to take out all the tree stakes/supports. He specifically mentioned ones that are on Mountain Way and Idlewild Drive.

PRESENTATION OF COUNCILWOMAN FU

Councilwoman Fu reminded of the 9-11 ceremony that will be held on Monday, September 12, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

Cross discussion about parking for the 9-11 ceremony.

She also advised of the County's 9-11 ceremony on Sunday, September 11, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at their remembrance location. Hazardous waste collection will take place this week at the County police academy. There will also be a crafts show at the Farmers Market.

The Commission Secretary announced that there will a grand opening at the new senior daycare center in Morris Plains at 60 East Hanover Avenue.

Councilwoman Fu advised of the Shade Tree Federation's conference in Atlantic City. She is planning to attend on Saturday for a course on tree inventory training.

Mr. Williams stated he will plan to attend.

Councilwoman Fu commented on the requirements necessary to maintain the Borough's credentials. She will also check with John Signorelli at the DPW to see if he would like to attend since he has attended over the past few years.

She updated on both Joe Signorelli and Joe Cecala as to their health issues.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Travaglia moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Karen M. Coffey
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Shade Tree Commission held on July 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Chambers. Present at roll call were:

Present: Mr. Donald Salerno, Vice Chairman
Mr. C. David Visscher
Mr. Lloyd Williams, Chairman
Councilwoman Laurie Fu

Absent: Mrs. Margaret Law
Mr. Lawrence Travaglia
Mr. David Dubee

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been published and posted in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Law of 1975, "Open Public Meetings Act."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Salerno moved that the minutes of the Commission's June 1, 2016 Regular Meeting be approved, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Williams opened this portion of the meeting to comments from the public. Hearing none, he closed this portion of the meeting.

BUDGET

Mr. Williams advised the current budget balance is \$21,172.40.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

FORESTER'S REPORT

No report was presented due to Mr. Dubee's absence.

The Commission Secretary reported on the memoranda received since the last meeting.

37 Canfield Place – Forester reported that the tree is fine, but the Department of Public Works (DPW) needs to be advised that the Belgian block should be fixed.

Councilwoman Fu advised that the DPW staff has attempted to repair the Belgian block, but the rock continues to fall out. She provided additional details as to what is actually happening at this site. There is insufficient room to do what really needs to be done to repair the problem.

Cross discussion about this tree and what should be done to correct the situation, including the suggestion that perhaps the tree will need to be taken down.

Councilwoman Fu stated she will ask the DPW staff to look at this situation once again to determine if there are any other ways this problem can be fixed.

Mr. Williams stated he will also check on this situation.

17 Diana Road – Forester reported that (2) 12"-24" locust trees be pruned.

28 Sunrise Drive – Forester reported that (2) 12"-24" trees need to be pruned.

55 Franklin Place – Mr. Salerno will check out this report of a dead tree in front of the house.

24 Idlewild Drive – Mr. Salerno will check out this report of a dead tree in front of the house.

Granniss Avenue - The Commission Secretary reported that a call was received from a resident requesting the planting of two new trees to replace two other trees that were taken down. The address may be 55 Granniss Avenue. The resident has also requested that the new trees be planted in the same exact locations.

Mr. Williams instructed that the request from the Granniss Avenue resident be placed on the list for new trees to be planted.

25 Washington Avenue – This site was placed on Work Sheet and Forester will report at the September meeting.

APPROVAL OF WORK ORDER WORK

Mr. Salerno moved that the work items identified be approved, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.** The work to be approved includes the two prunings and also the possible tree take down at 55 Franklin Place and 24 Idlewild Drive.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Williams advised he spoke with Barbato recently about the trees reported to them that have died. They will take care of them. He was also told that some of the reported trees have already been replaced once, and this would be the second time of replacing. A Barbato staff person raised the possibility that perhaps the ground where some of the trees are being planted is causing the problems.

Cross discussion about this issue raised by the Barbato staff person about possible problems with the ground. If it was the ground, why don't all the trees planted in the same area die, why is it that only some die and others thrive?

Councilwoman Fu stated that two (2) White Pine trees in Watnong Park died and one on Totten Way that may already have been replaced once. The trees dying apparently are all White Pine trees.

Mr. Williams stated Barbato agreed to replace all the trees except those trees "in question" which will require further negotiation.

Councilwoman Fu advised that a Maple tree on Court Road also died. She also commented that she was told that White Pine trees are not necessarily the easiest trees to grow. She also mentioned that perhaps Norway Spruce trees should be planted – they may have a better chance of thriving.

Mr. Salerno asked about two Pear trees along Route 53.

Mr. Williams and Councilwoman Fu advised these are on the list.

Councilwoman Fu confirmed that now the trees are all planted. She has submitted the last paperwork to the State. Hopefully, reimbursement will be received in a timely manner. There are no more trees available for planting that the State will be paying for.

Cross discussion about the request for two trees to be planted on Granniss Avenue (possibly 55 Granniss Avenue). Issue is will trees be planted in this location and if so, how will these trees be obtained/paid for. The residents making this request also wants to select the species of trees.

The Commission Secretary commented on how Work Sheets are processed and how long they are kept active – they are not continued year to year. She will investigate the history of the trees taken down at the Granniss Avenue site and review available information to help the Commission make its decision on how to proceed with this request.

Mr. Williams advised that any new trees needed would be purchased individually from Cerbo as long as the amount to be spent is less than \$17,000, and thus not requiring any bid process.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Williams reported on a tree at the corner of Keenan Place and Franklin Place where curb reconstruction has been done. While there is a large root sticking out, the tree (a large Evergreen) appears fine.

Cross discussion about this tree situation, curb work being done/recently done, and the matter of cutting roots.

Mr. Williams suggested that at the September meeting additional discussion can take place about some of the matters touched on at this meeting such as the purchasing of new trees.

PRESENTATION OF COUNCILWOMAN FU

Councilwoman Fu commented that “it’s summertime in the Borough” and there is a lot of activity, including the road construction projects and traffic issues. She briefly discussed school referendum matters, including that there will be several public forums at the school so that residents can ask questions and obtain information.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Salerno moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Karen M. Coffey
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan
Recording Secretary