

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Shade Tree Commission held on June 6, 2012 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. Robert Dubee, Forester

Absent: Mr. Donald Salerno, Vice Chairman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Law moved that the Minutes of the Commission's April 4, 2012 meeting be approved as circulated, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Williams opened the meeting to the public to speak on matters other than those on the agenda. Hearing none, he closed this portion of the meeting to the public.

BUDGET

Mr. Williams advised that \$27,000 remains in the current budget.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Williams advised of a March 7, 2012 letter received from a resident at 17 Briarcliff Rd., reporting on the resolution of a complaint involving damage done to fencing and sprinkler system during tree work by Greenwood. He thanked the Commission for its assistance in having the necessary repairs made.

Mr. Williams stated he has spoken with this resident at 1 Trowbridge Rd. who is asking for a Red Maple tree. He advised the resident that the tree would be planted in the fall.

Cross discussion about the request for the Red Maple tree, including that Mr. Dubee will check the location to ensure that a Red Maple is an appropriate tree for the site, whether he is really asking for an October Glory Maple tree or a Japanese Red Maple tree, and whether the resident can actually request a specific type of tree or if the Commission has the sole authority of what kind of tree is planted.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Mr. Dubee presented his report.

37 Headley Avenue - Forester stated that (1) 24"-36" tree w/stump should be removed.

6 Northview Drive – Forester stated that resident claimed the tree was not leafing; but it came into full leaf and is fine.

50 Granniss Avenue – Forester stated that (2) Maple trees in front of the house in question have nothing wrong with them. He stated that (1) tree has squirrels living in it which has created several hollow areas for nests. He recommended this tree be checked in the fall to see if there can be a resolution to keeping the squirrels out of the hollowed areas to allow the trees to heal. The Commission Secretary placed this tree on the Work Sheet.

Front of Library (Glenbrook Rd.) – Forester stated (1) yellowwood tree has lichen growing on it. It does not injure the tree. He stated that (2) 10' cables need replacing.

10 Thompson Way – Forester stated that (1) 12" maple tree needs pruning.

26 Sunrise Drive – Forester stated that (1) 30" tree w/36" stump needs to be taken down.

18 Dayton Road – Forester stated (1) under 12" trees need to be pruned.

17 Dayton Road – Forester stated (1) under 12" tree needs to be pruned.

11 Burch Drive – Forester stated that this is not a Borough tree. The resident will be contacted to advise it is not a Borough tree.

15 Franklin Place – Forester stated that the (2) trees in question are not Borough trees.

Cross discussion about these two trees regarding whether there is a chance they are indeed Borough trees. Mrs. Law checked the list of roadways to determine what Franklin Place is listed as regarding the right of way. Franklin Place is a 50' right of way. The Forester will check again to determine whether these trees are Borough trees or not.

17 Hillview Avenue – Forester stated that resident claims the tree in front of her home needs pruning, branches are hanging over the roadway and are being hit by trucks. He did not observe the problem reported relating to passing trucks hitting branches. He will double check this with her.

101 Glenbrook Avenue - Memorandum dated May 23, 2012. This tree needs pruning and shaping. It is less than 12".

Teen Center - The Commission Secretary will FAX to him tomorrow. It involves three trees by the Teen Center. Mr. Salerno has offered to show Mr. Dubee these trees.

Sun Valley Way – Forester stated that (1) under 12" and (2) 12"-24" trees at the corner of Granniss Avenue and Sun Valley Way are dead and need to be taken down, no stumps need to be removed. .

Mrs. Law raised the issue of defining “pruning” versus “elevating” with regard to line items in the bid form.

Cross discussion about trees that require just pruning, just elevating and pruning and elevating, including the use of the different terminologies on purchase orders.

The Commission Secretary advised she had information from David Dubee recommending that pruning be done on trees at 80 Sylvan Drive, 5 Juniper Drive, 24 Parker Drive, 6 Drake Way, 19 Headley Avenue, 23 Headley Avenue, and 3 Peach in Hanover.

The consensus response was that all these sites be visited first.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Travaglia moved that the purchase orders be approved, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilwoman Fu updated information in connection with the project discussed at the Commission’s last meeting. She advised she received an e-mail on Monday, June 4, 2012 and shared the e-mail content with the Commission members.

Several members indicated they would like to participate in the meeting with the State representative. Depending on the number of members planning to be in attendance, there may need to be notice of a Special Meeting of the Commission.

Cross discussion about this meeting including that no date is set yet, 9:00 a.m. would be a good time, possible dates for this meeting, and that the exact attendance is not certain. Also included was that this meeting perhaps could be referred to as a “conference meeting.”

The Commission Secretary stated sufficient time needs to be allowed for publication of the notice of a Special Meeting.

All agreed that the Arbor Day celebration was very nice and that the children sang a very lovely song at this event.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

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

Karen M. Coffey

Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan

Recording Secretary