

## MINUTES OF THE MAY 11, 2009 MEETING

Present: Nils Abate, Todd Bradbury, George Futterknecht, John Kashwick, ,  
Richard Ryan and Louise Ungar  
Absent: Susan Boudet and Anthony Lupardi, Sr.  
Guests: Leslie Weatherly and Ray Cywinski

Richard opened the meeting with the Public Meetings Statement. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as written. The Roll Call was taken.

Articles and pictures had been in the newspapers about the Arbor Tree plantings at the schools and the Environmental Commission plantings at the David Scholz Bridge. Richard stated the Beech tree planted at Hillside School was particularly beautiful and the Red Maple planted at Tenakill was also very nice.

Leslie had prepared a list of trees requested to be planted in the future.

Ray spoke regarding an additional easement beyond the ten feet policy currently used to designate shade trees. Other towns go to the Zoning Board and put it in a Zoning Ordinance. It can be done for existing houses as well as new houses. Paramus is a good example of this.

Some creative solutions have been done in response to sidewalk complaints; i.e., raising the sidewalks, having the sidewalks curve around the roots, etc.

### **Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

### **Old Business:**

Leslie stated 290 Anderson Avenue is a problem. There are three Norway Maple shade trees involved. The homeowner would like to remove them at her own expense and plant two new ones. In addition, she would make a \$300.00 donation to the Closter Shade Tree Commission to plant a tree at some other place in the town. After lengthy discussion, M/S/C the owner of 290 Anderson Avenue be allowed to remove the three trees at her own expense and donate \$300.00 to the commission for a tree to be planted elsewhere in town.

A Norway Maple at 88 Durant Lane has some holes in it and possible signs of decay. Driveway renovation is being done and the homeowner would like permission to take down the tree at his own expense and have another tree planted in another location within the next three months. M/S/C the owner of 88 Durant Lane be given permission to remove one tree at his own expense and have another planted within three months. There was one objection to the motion.

It was noted that Lace Bark Elm is to be substituted in place of the Tree Lilac from our list of recommended trees to be planted.

The trees at 80 Hickory Lane will be discussed at the June meeting.

George reported there are two trees at 83 Hickory Lane that are dead. They have been marked with an "X" and should be taken down. Leslie will put them on the take down list.

The tree at 50 Eckerson Avenue will be handled by the Department of Public Works.

The tree at 99 Old Hook Road will be taken down by the County.

A tree had been planted by us at 23 Jane Street. The homeowner wants it removed. Leslie asks can we handle this? Todd will check with Greenland Nursery to see how much it would cost to have the tree removed and replanted at Moritz Funeral Home to replace a tree that has died (a maximum of \$200.00 was mentioned). It is suggested any trees from our recent planting that have died should be removed, but replanting should be held until the fall.

Todd is handling the problem at 80 McArthur Avenue. He has also inspected the tree at 28 Columbus Avenue and states it is dead and should be taken down.

John states the Planning and Zoning Boards are going to give us recommendations regarding the possible bonding of trees during new construction. It is noted the Ordinance will not be changed at this time.

Richard reported on the Arbor Day and Environmental Commission tree plantings at the beginning of the meeting.

We will address possibly purchasing Door Hangers at a future time.

An Alternate Member has not been suggested to us.

Louise has ordered five additional Community Forestry Management Plan books from Paul Cowie & Associates. We will hold off working on the plan until the books are received.

We had received a letter from the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation seeking our support for New Jersey Legislative Bills S-2503 and A-2872 seeking licensure of tree experts and tree care operators to help prevent improper tree care practices by inadequately trained and/or insured contractors. After discussion, M/S/C the commission will urge the Mayor and Council to pass a resolution supporting this legislation. There was one objection to the motion.

George is working on the Maintenance/Pruning Standards.

Regarding the Shade Tree Policy—Talking Points and Ideas, we have to wait for the recommendations from the Zoning and Planning Boards. Richard referred back to the Ridgefield Park Ordinance. Nils pointed out that Ridgefield Park homes do not have as much front yard space as other towns do.

George informs us the four dead trees covered by the 2006 CSIP Grant will be replaced.

John states the report has been processed; new plantings will be addressed in the specifications.

Todd spoke about the West Street development. He suggested White Oaks be planted, but Red Oaks were planted.

Todd feels Greenland Nursery did a sensational job on the plantings.

#### **New Business:**

Richard suggested we address the Community Forestry Management Plan books by each taking a section to work on. In this way we could keep a handle on things.

Richard was approached by Joe Bianco regarding using a possible better system for mulching and other things. It was suggested he write us a letter explaining his ideas.

There were no other members of the public in attendance at the meeting. It is suggested in the future we allow any of the public in attendance to speak at the beginning of the meeting rather than at the end. Agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise G. Ungar  
Secretary