

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2012 MEETING

Present: Nils Abate, Todd Bradbury, George Futterknecht, John Kashwick, Anthony Lupardi, Sr., Keith Scholz, and Louise Ungar, Members; and Leslie Weatherly, Coordinator

Absent: Susan Boudet

Guests: Mayor Sophie Heymann and Bill Fuchs

Meetings Statement. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

approved as presented.

Meeting Opened to the Public:

The Mayor was invited to speak. She showed us a picture of a beautiful tree that had been in front of her house before the October storm. She questioned could an addition to the Ordinance mandate that trees planted under utility wires be trees that grow to no more than twenty-five feet? This would be for wherever there are street trees in the vicinity of overhead wires in the Borough. She stated there are many trees that are very appropriate for this and feels this would be taking a positive step.

George stated we have been following such an agenda in our recent plantings. It has been our policy, where the front lawn allows, to plant further in on the lawns rather than close to the street. This will be discussed under New Business.

Before leaving, the Mayor congratulated us on the work we have been doing.

Correspondence:

We received a copy of a letter from Mrs. Peggy Monges, 472 High Street, about trees in front of her house. It was noted this is the County's responsibility. Charlie Lee, 17 Morrison Street, would like to be on the spring planting list and would like to have two medium sized trees planted in front of his house instead of one large one.

John stated the Community Forestry Grant Report is completed and will be sent next week.

Old Business:

Leslie reports Frank DeCarlo finished the last of the take downs. The work will be checked and, if satisfactory, the P.O. Will be signed.

Leslie informs us Rockland Electric was in town doing some work a week ago. Frank DeCarlo will grind the stumps remaining from the October storm. Imperial has completed the pruning work they were doing for us in District #1.

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A variety of new tree species had been suggested at the December 12th meeting.

Regarding the Five-Year Community Forestry Management Plan, George suggests in the fourth quarter of the year we should be focusing on the Plan Preparation and Evaluation (pages 40, 41) section of the plan. We will carry this forward under Old Business with an emphasis on October.

Ken's Tree Care will not replant the trees at Ruckman Park.

We need to have another commission member who is knowledgeable about trees. Does anyone know someone to suggest?

George spoke about the sidewalk grates. The owner of Hometown Hardware and Lupardi's Nursery had fixed their grate problem by lifting the grate and grading the surrounding the area. It is suggested this is a doable project to address other grate problems.

New Business:

The Mayor's suggestion about the size of trees planted under wires was discussed. How should this be worded? It was noted the Ordinance guides what we must do. M/S/C with three opposed, this be tabled until the March meeting.

Todd spoke about the quality of the trees we are having planted. Could we spend more and get better quality trees? It was suggested something could be incorporated in the specifications.

There was discussion about an Arbor Day planting. Where should a tree or trees be planted this year? It is suggested trees be planted at the schools as usual. Nils will check with the schools and arrange a date.

A new schedule for Pruning/Maintenance and Planting Districts needs to be set up.

George asked did we want to have some high school students from the NVRHS Senior Release Program do identification of tree work this year? The response was yes, provided they were serious and responsible about doing the job correctly.

Nils had information about ISA Credits available for a course at Rutger's on April 24th that he would like to attend. After discussion, M/S/C Nils be approved to attend the Municipal Shade Tree Management Course at Rutger's on April 24th.

Todd inquired if there was someone who might be hired to work with us? It was mentioned Ryan Metz did a nice job when he worked with us last year.

There being no further business, M/S/C the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise G. Ungar
Secretary