

Westwood Shade Tree Advisory Committee - Minutes – April 11, 2011
Attendance: S. Scherba, L. Hayes, V. Sauer, C. Leyden, and P. Grefrath
Meeting began at 7:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Linda Hayes at 7:30 PM, Sheryl Scherba read the Open Public Meetings Law Statement: "This meeting which conforms to the Open Public Meetings Law, Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975, is a regular Westwood Shade Tree Advisory Meeting. Notices have been filed with our local official newspapers and posted on the municipal bulletin board."

The minutes from February and March were voted on and approved.

Telephone Messages:

- resident at 77 Berkley Ave requests a tree
- resident at 120 James Street requests a tree
- resident at 38 Sealy St concerned about sidewalk rising due to tree roots
- resident at 51 Harding Ave wants tree removed – termite damage in trunk of tree looks like a hazard

This meeting was attended by the following guests:

Guy Vogt, PSE&G – division forester
Rick Woods – Westwood DPW

Zoning Board Chair – Bill Martin was supposed to have attended this meeting but was not able and is planning on attending the May 9th Meeting.

Guy Vogt, of PSEG stopped in to report that work will be done in Westwood removing trees on our list and pruning near wires. He asked if STAC received a check through the New Jersey Tree Foundation. He believes that we should have received \$1000. Linda will check on this with Lisa Simms of the foundation to find out who the check was made out to and when it was mailed.

Rick Woods reported that a resident on 145 Mill Street chopped at the roots of a town tree putting the health of the tree in jeopardy.

Rick would like to remove the sidewalks in Woodland Cross Park - they are lifting due to roots from trees in the park and there really is no reason to have the sidewalks there. STAC told him to go ahead and remove the sidewalks.

Arbor Day:

The space shuttle tree has arrived and is being kept by the DPW until it is planted on Arbor Day - it will be planted in the park across from the library. We will create a plaque that can be displayed in the library telling the history of the

tree and its location. We will also fill a large basket with tree seedlings that the Library can had out on Arbor Day.

Email:

An email account has been set up for STAC – shadetree@westwoodnj.gov - we will discuss as to how we want to manage the account, who has access and who will reply to and delete messages.

Tree Inventory:

Paul Cowie is scheduled to install the software on April 14th, he will return after the Easter holiday to instruct Pat at the DPW on how to use the software.

Paragon:

14 trees were scheduled to be removed from this property and as it looks now – many more trees were removed. Linda will call Bill Martin to inquire as to why Paragon project did not adhere to the resolution and what can be done about it now.

Request for tree removal:

Linda and Rick were scheduled to visit several locations that had requests to have trees removed. We need to take a strong stand and deny the removal if the tree is in good condition. If the resident absolutely wanted the tree removed, than restitution amount must be agreed upon. Going forward this needs to be clear in the new ordinance.

Spring Tree Planting:

Linda reported that the trees are ready for delivery. We are hoping to get a list generated by the new inventory software of planting spots available by zone.

Miscellaneous:

Westwood once again received the Tree City USA award for 2010 as well as the Growth Award – these medals were placed on the plaques' in the Boro Hall – hallway.

Linda will contact Bill Murtaugh to give us a price on pruning

Linda will contact Kris Hasbrouck, arborist to review site plans for potential impact on municipal/residential trees before Boards review applications. – Linda will contact him to give us a price for this service.

Meeting ended at 9:30 PM