

Westwood Shade Tree Advisory Committee – Minutes – February 11, 2008
Attendance: V. Sauer, L. Hayes, S. Scherba, C. Leyden, J. Russo and P. Grefrath

Meeting began at 7:30 PM

The January 2008 minutes were voted on and approved.

Correspondence:

- February 20, 2008 – Rutgers – workshop given by NJ Tree Foundation on Tree Inventory – Tree Value

Telephone Messages:

- Resident called to report excessive cutting down of trees on Lafayette Terrace.
- Ann Costello – Westwood Planning Board will have Stephanie forward plans to us regarding the Misha subdivision on Fourth Avenue.
- Resident at 153 Lexington Avenue wants someone to take a look at tree in front of their house it may be in danger of falling.
- Ann Costello – Westwood Planning Board request a written comments and review of Misha Plans.

Girl Scout Park –

Council liaison Peter Grefrath informed us that the Bergen Environmental Council along with Bergen SWAN would like to sculpt and improve the banks along the Masquapsink Brook at Girl Scout Park. Linda had the opportunity to speak with Mayor Birkner regarding their desire to replace the three willow trees currently on the site. She informed the Mayor that the three willow trees are not to be taken down and that we could possibly put one more tree in this area closer to the Girl Scout park area but that no other trees should be planted there at this time.

Certified Tree Expert:

We currently are using John Murtaugh when we need a CTE – a discussion was had the way to fill out the paperwork when John goes out to a site to inspect a tree. We need to devise a method so that John gets paid and we have a record of what trees have been evaluated by him.

Website:

Sheryl will review what is currently on the town website under the Shade Tree section and inform Peter of any additions or changes necessary.

Arbor Day:

Linda has ordered from the National Arbor Day Foundation – pamphlets on the importance of trees and how to plant a tree. Also two different posters to be distributed to the schools and possible the library on caring for trees and trees and global warming

Tree City USA:

Five new signs have been put up throughout the town.

Right of Way:

Peter will clarify with Russ Huntington the exact area that the “right of way area” is. How many feet from the curb and where in that area can a tree be planted by the town.

Spring Planting:

A letter will go to the residents informing them that they will be getting a tree and to inform Shade Tree if they have any sprinkler issues in the right of way area will be delivered to the proposed addresses in the next two weeks.

Future Plans:

- We will share shade tree concerns with the new governing body at the March 4th work session of Mayor and Council – Peter has put this on their agenda. The main points we want to get across are the importance of the Planning Board, Building Department, DPW and Shade Tree all working together to enforce the ordinance. We will speak briefly about the Management Plan, grants, tree inventory importance, and our mission statement.
- We will be working on a letter to go out to all Tree work contractors, Masonry contractors and landscapers in our area telling them about the ordinance in our town regarding tree work. The town will mail for us.
- Meisel donation of \$2,500 – we will decide what kind of trees and where to plant them after all trees currently ordered for Spring 2008 have been planted.

Meeting ended at 9:30 PM