

Westwood Shade Tree Advisory Committee - Minutes – November 8, 2010
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 September and October 2010 minutes were voted on and passed.

Telephone Messages:

- Precision Tree Service called to ask if they needed a permit to remove 3 trees on a property in Westwood.
- Resident on 100 Clairmont Ave wants 2 trees
- Resident on 38 Sealy has a concern about a tree

Correspondence:

Kevin Glynn of "My Westwood" wanted to know if we had any Shade tree news to be published.

A motion was had to open the meeting to the public. No one from the public attended the meeting and so a motion was had to close the meeting to the public.

Fall 2010 Tree Planting

- Linda reported that all the trees ordered have been planted by the DPW – it was then discussed that we will probably not have future fall plantings due to the short time frame that the DPW is able to get the trees planted and the leaf-removal season starting.

Spring 2011 Tree Planting

A discussion was had on not ordering trees for spring 2011 tree planting due to not having any money in the budget.

Inventory update:

Paul Cowie should be done in about 2 weeks (end of November). He will then install the software and start training at the DPW. Paul Cowie would like Rick at the DPW to give him a list of any trees taken down since the tree inventory counting began this year so that he can update the records.

Ketler Bus Lane:

Chris prepared a rough draft to be signed by Robert Hoffman to the

Westwood Board of Education; Mr. Zoeller in response to their letter of June 30th. We are requesting restitution of \$6,500 for the tree that was taken down in order to put up the bus lane.

Tree Removal Permits and Contractor Sticker Program:

A discussion was had on initiating a sticker program in Westwood where all contractors who will be doing business in the town would have to buy a sticker – at that time they would get a copy of our tree ordinance and any other information regarding tree work. All homeowners would have to have a tree removal permit before any tree in the borough could be removed. Peter is willing to get this started and it would coincide with STAC working on the new ordinance in 2011.

Paragon

STAC will write a letter requesting that restitution for 13 trees (18 removed less 5 allowed) – we would also like to know which trees are on the plan to be removed. Linda and Ginny reviewed the site in April of 2009 and they sent a list of trees to Bill Martin (Zoning Board)

Sidewalk Lifting concerns

We received two requests for tree removal due to sidewalk lifting safety concerns, on 35-41 Lexington and on 30 Sealy – the trees in question are healthy trees according to the inventory evaluation. We asked Peter to bring this up at the next council meeting as to what we can do about this. – possibly lift the sidewalk completely away and be able to walk on the grass in the Lexington Ave due to size and age of the Oak tree in question being more important than a sidewalk in that area. The issue on Sealy is that the sidewalk is only lifting about a half inch.

NJ Shade Tree Meeting

Ginny and Jack attended the meeting on Friday, October 29th and by so doing were able to get the CEUs (Continuing Education Units) needed for 2010. Ginny will fill us in at the December meeting as to what she found out at the meeting. At the meeting, Ginny won a white pine space shuttle tree that was seeded in the space shuttle. We are hoping to get the tree in spring of 2011 and be able to plant for Arbor Day.

Tree Pruning

We would like to focus on tree pruning in 2011 and realize that outside contractors will be needed to get the job done correctly. The DPW will be able to prune in some cases but most of the work will need to be done by trained tree pruners. Once Paul Cowie is done with the tree inventory, we can get a better understanding as to how many trees need to be pruned.

Meeting ended at 9 PM

