

Westwood Shade Tree Advisory Committee - Minutes November 18, 2013  
Attendance: L. Hayes, S. Scherba, V. Sauer, C. Leyden, J Russo and  
council liaison J Sciara

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 2013 minutes of October were voted on and approved.

Telephone Messages:

- o 44 Newark Ave – requests pruning to alleviate flooding risk
- o 147 Lafayette Ave – requests pruning on neighbors tree which hangs over into her driveway dropping acorns on her car

Meeting opened up to the Public:

- Emily Brawer from Ramapo College (taking an Environmental Science class) attended part of our meeting as a requirement of her class to sit in on Shade tree/Environmental public meetings.
- Bill Murtaugh brought in samples of diseased tree limbs to show the results of storm damage. He recommended the importance of tree pruning on Westwood's older trees (approx.) every five years to keep them healthy and safe. Bill asked that we create work zones for him so that he can prune the younger trees in one area of town at a time.

Council Liaison report -

- o J reported that a pipe will be changed on Newark Ave to alleviate flooding in that area
- o J signed the tree purchase order for Spring planting.

5 Year Management Plan

Paul Cowie wants to meet with Ginny and Linda – they will call to make

a date.

## 2014 Spring Trees

Linda ordered the following trees in containers (if available) from Johnson Farms:

- o 15 Greenvase Zelcova
- o 15 male Ginko
- o 15 Japanese Tree Lilac
- o 15 Queen Elizabeth Hedge Maple

We are to make a list of planting sites

40 tree gaiters will also be ordered from last years purchase order (the order was never filled because of Hurricane Sandy)

## **Spring Planting**

It was discussed that we make a better master list to give to the DPW that would show the address, planting location (example, left of driveway), planting date, signed by DPW

Linda has asked Rick and Rio for a list of where the 2013 trees were planted. Rio has not put the new trees into the inventory system. Paul Cowie is willing to do a training session again but requires undivided attention of the DPW (Rio) – a date and time will be set up and hopefully Ginny or Linda could also attend. John suggested that we see if we could link-up with the Shade Tree Commission in River Edge might (since they use the same soft ware) for added help in using the system.

## **Shade Tree Federation Meeting**

Chris and Ginny attended this year which was held Oct 25th and 26th in Cherry Hill NJ – Experts spoke of adjusting future tree selections for the gradual climate changes since we are having dryer and warmer winters. Also - the importance of risk assessment after storms in our urban forest.

They also spoke to a representative from FernBrook Nursery who had information for the DPW on how to plant a container trees. The owner recommended a few preparatory steps before putting the container trees in the ground. Linda will talk to Ryan at the DPW next year before spring planting season just to be sure.

Tree Pruning:

Linda suggested pruning start in Veterans park by a Certified Tree Expert

2014 Budget:

Sheryl filed the 2014 budget electronically and Linda went over it with J to be sure he understands what we are asking for. The requested budget is as follows:

Professional development and core training 720.00

Membership/subscriptions 165.00

Supplies 150.00

Trees purchases – 60 6900.00

Shipping of trees 500.00

Tree gaitors – 50 807.50

Hire arborist to prune trees 25000.00

Total \$34242.50

Meeting ended at 8:55PM