

Westwood Shade Tree Advisory Committee - Minutes – December 10, 2012

Attendance: S. Scherba, L. Hayes, V. Sauer, J. Russo and I. Quinn, council liaison

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 November 2012 minutes were voted on and approved.

Telephone Messages:

Resident at 63 Prospect Ave requests a tree

NO one from the public attended this meeting.

CVS – Jefferson Ave:

Chris drafted our recommendation for CVS to the Boro Planner, Ed Sneikus – stating that we recommend that the two trees on Jefferson remain. Restitution for the trees if they were to be removed would be \$2,400 per tree. We would recommend that Japanese Tree Lilac be chosen as replacement trees if necessary. Linda will give him the go ahead to create the letter

Council Liaison report -

Care One Project

Ingrid had not heard anything on the status of this project.

There was a discussion as to why WSTAC was not informed of final determinations - though asked for their recommendations. The committee wondered whether there was a set protocol in such situations so that WSTAC could secure a response to their recommendations. Should WSTAC call the Administrator - Bob Hoffman - or inquire through our council liaison? What kind of closure could we expect on each project and/or how should we be following up on restitution requests? Ingrid advised that we could call Bill Martin to find out what properties with tree issues are coming up before the board.

\$9,755 deduction from Restitution fund

Ingrid reported that no answer can be had until the auditing of the account is complete.

Grant Approval for 5 Year Management Plan

Ingrid reported that this was not on the agenda at the last Mayor and Council work session. It was given to Mayor and Council to review for the next work session in December. Ingrid said that they may ask for a breakdown of fees by Paul Cowie. Linda said that the contract price and proposal was included in the packet and that the work to be done would be the same as the last two 5 year management plans which can be found in the office.

Revised ordinance

Ingrid reported that the discussion of the revised ordinance was tabled by the governing body. She may recommend a sub-committee revisit the revised ordinance and submit any questions they may have to WSTAC.

Other items

Ingrid reports that Bob Hoffman may be interested in a shared services meeting where we could possibly purchase trees with another town.

WSTAC asked Ingrid if she could find out if the Environmental group that meets is a committee or a commission

Budget 2013:

Linda wrote up the budget similar to this year (2012) but also add an additional amount of \$25,000 to cover “mature tree” pruning and \$6,500 to cover "young tree "pruning. These types of pruning need to be done by a trained arborist. Linda attached notes to explain each item in the budget.

Ketler:

Ginny spoke with Paul Cowie to ask if he could review the site and make any recommendations regarding the trees and the crosswalks. Paul stated that he does not have a background in traffic safety – he noted that the trees have been present for many years and have not posed a problem. Ginny will call Rutgers to ask if they would know anything about traffic and cross-walk patterns with regards to trees.

Misha property – Fourth Ave

Zoning board did not approve this plan. Misha appealed and a judge overruled all town rules. Chris drafted a letter to Bob Hoffman requesting a copy of the ruling. It was discussed that *town trees* were taken down and there was a question as to how a judge could overrule restitution for tree removal on the project?

Tree Inventory

In a conversation with Paul Cowie, Ginny Sauer said Mr. Cowie is waiting on a list from the secretary of the DPW to complete information needed for the tree inventory. Ingrid will talk with Bob Hoffman and have him call Paul Cowie to straighten out the information needed to keep the tree inventory viable.

Meeting ended at 9:15 PM