

Westwood Shade Tree Advisory Committee - Minutes – September 9 ,2013

Attendance: S. Scherba, V. Sauer, C. Leyden, J Russo and council liaison J Sciarra

Meeting began at 7:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Virginia Sauer 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 March, April, May and June were voted on and approved.

Telephone Messages:

- o Resident called to say they were not happy that trees were being taken down by CVS and on Broadway – perfectly healthy trees being taken down.
- o 75 Clinton Ave – resident claimed that a tree was taken down and now there was a sinkhole forming.
- o 153 Lafayette Ave – requested tree pruning
- o 35 St. Nicholas Ave – requested tree removal
- o 14 Eighth Ave – requests a tree
- o 86 Wheeler Ave – requests 2 trees (under wires)
- o 78 James Street – request a tree
- o 74 Bergen St – request evaluation of tree fungus
- o 121 Carl Place – request tree pruning
- o 7 Park Place – wants tree removed and replaced
- o 16 Grove Street – requests a tree
- o 3 Lafayette Ave – requests a tree
- o 9 Lafayette Ave – requests a tree

Correspondence:

- o NJ Shade Tree Federation pamphlet
- o Newspaper article saying that 200 free trees are being offered (sycamore and dogwood) by NJ Tree Federation

Meeting opened up to the Public:

Resident Mary Jo Guadagno of 11 Newark Avenue came forward to request that the Sycamore tree in front of her home be removed. She claims that the leaves and bark from the tree is causing the storm drains to clog and contribute to the flooding in the front of her house. She claims that last August 2012 the flood waters entered her home. She brought photographs of the flooding and current photos of the debris as it is currently in September 2013. She also brought a map of area showing 4 storm cellars for the area. She previously wrote a letter to Mayor Birkner and DPW requesting this problem to be evaluated. She would like us to consider removing the tree at this time. Ginny took copies of the photographs and previously written letters and will bring it to the attention of Rick at the DPW and Bob Hoffman for their assessment of the situation.

Council Liaison report -

- o J recommended that we start working on next years budget

5 Year Management Plan

Paul Cowie is working on this – Ginny will call to find out where he is in the process and find out if he needs to apply for an extension of time.

Ketler:

A discussion was had on finding out if/when the proposed 6 trees were coming down and would they be replaced.

Pruning:

It was discussed that we make lists of areas that we see that need pruning. Chris and John said that they would come up with a list and give to Ginny.

2014 Spring Trees

It was discussed that we want to plant more trees in the Spring of 2014 We also would like a list from Rick at DPW of where the Spring 2013 were actually planted. Suggestions for tall trees are Elm and Katsura and for short trees, Standard Red bud or Shadblow/Service Berry.

Shade Tree Federation Meeting

Chris and John will check their calendars to see if they can attend the meeting this year which is held Oct 25th and 26th in Cherry Hill NJ

Meeting ended at 8:55PM