



## **Westwood Shade Tree Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes Westwood Borough Hall September 13, 7:00PM**

Present: Gil TenHoeve - President  
Fred Rella - Secretary  
Beth Staples  
Jeff Ocher  
Chris Montana

Absent: None

Guests: Carrie Sargeant  
(NJDEP, Div. Parks & Forestry)

- Gil TenHoeve called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- The July 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved; motion by Beth Staples, second by Jeff Ocher.
- Gil introduced guest speaker, Carrie Sargeant, Asst. Regional Coordinator, NJDEP, Division of Parks and Forestry.
  - Ms. Sargeant spoke about the Community Forestry Program.
    - Goals and Objectives
    - Participant Benefits including; grants and Sustainable NJ
    - Westwoods Prior Participation
    - Process to become a Participant
  - It was agreed by the Shade Tree Committee that we would like to participate in the Community Forestry Program once again and we would begin the process which would take approximately 6 months to complete.
    - Fred Rella would oversee the Program Application.
    - Jeff Ocher would fulfill the training requirement.
  - Beth Staples offered to write a press release on our meeting with Ms. Sargeant for the local newspaper.

- Fred Rella brought up that Westwood should once again become a member of, “Tree City USA”.
  - It was agreed by the Committee that this was a good idea and we would pursue becoming a member.
  - Fred offered to take the lead in completing the application process.
  
- Chris Montana gave an overview of the Shade Tree Committees financial status.
  - Chris reported that approximately \$11,000 is in a Trust with another \$2,500 coming in from a fine.
  
- Fred Rella brought up an Eagle Scout project which was approved by the Borough Mayor and Council on September 6<sup>th</sup>. The Eagle Scout candidate is Daniel DeMarco. The project entitled, “Garden of Service” would have a number of upgrades to the 9/11 memorial at Veterans Park honoring military servicemen and women. One element of the plan calls for 5 trees to be planted, one tree for each branch of military service; Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.
  - Fred Rella proposed that the Shade Tree Committee donate the 5 trees necessary.
  - A motion to approve the 5 trees was made by Beth Staples, seconded by Gil TenHoeve and all agreed. The motion was passed.
  
- Gil TenHoeve brought up the October/November annual residential tree planting program that needs to be implemented. A discussion ensued about the program and it was agreed that:
  - Gil would work with Karen Hughes, Borough Clerk to coordinate the programs advertising/promotional efforts.
  - Gil would work with Rick Woods to initiate the securing of the trees for planting.
  - Chris Montana noted that last year approximately \$3,000 was spent on the program for an average of \$150-\$175 per tree.
  
- Gil TenHoeve asked if there was any new business. Being none, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Beth Staples and seconded by Jeff Ocher. All agreed, the meeting was adjourned 8:25pm.