

Westwood Shade Tree Advisory Committee - Minutes – May 9, 2011
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 minutes from April 2011 were voted on and approved.

Telephone Messages:

- resident at 400 Washington Avenue requests a tree
- resident at 79 Beech Street requests a tree
- resident at 64 Second Ave has sprinkler system in right of way
- resident at 38 Euclid Ave has sprinkler system in right of way
- resident at 23 Steinbach does not want a tree

This meeting was attended by Bill Martin, chairman of zoning board. A discussion was had in regards to the Paragon Project as an example of what procedures STAC should follow in regards to the protection of trees on future building lots in Westwood. In regards to this project, Bill Martin suggests that Linda go and look at the plans for the project that contain the tree information and then look at the resolution to see if the plan was followed. If it was not followed then a letter should be written to our council liaison requesting that the construction official review the plans and enforce the ordinance. Bill also suggested that going forward the STAC attend the zoning board meetings when property/tree issues are on the agenda. He suggested that Peter obtain 2-3 tax map booklets which contain the town lot/block map indicating street addresses. This will enable us to know where and what properties are being built upon. We can look at the properties and see if any issues would involve tree removals. Bill also suggested that we take a look at the Milburn/Short Hills shade tree ordinance, as he believes it is written well.

Tree Fines:

Rick Woods reported that a resident on 145 Mill Street chopped at the roots of a town tree putting the health of the tree in jeopardy. A letter was written to the homeowner, the judge ordered a fine of \$2100 reduced from \$2610 and a check was received this week.

Arbor Day:

The space shuttle tree has been planted in front of the train station. It was decorated with a green bow donated from Tyrells florist. Information about the tree as well as a signed certificate of authenticity will be displayed on the borough hall shade tree wall. A framed paper with information about the tree and where it was planted will be hung in the children's section of the public library.

Tree Inventory:

Paul Cowie is installed the software and instructed Pat at the DPW on how to use the software. We can make an appointment for anyone else that would like to learn how to use the software and Paul Cowie will come out and provide instruction. – Otherwise this grant project is considered complete. Linda sent all necessary paperwork into the state.

Request for tree removal:

Linda and Rick were scheduled to visit several locations that had requests to have trees removed. We need to take a strong stand and deny the removal if the tree is in good condition. If the resident absolutely wanted the tree removed, than restitution amount must be agreed upon. Going forward this needs to be clear in the new ordinance. Letters were written to the following addresses denying them the removal of trees that were in good condition per our recent inventory evaluation:

- 38 Sealy Street
- 77 Kaufman Street
- 638 Ward Avenue

Spring Tree Planting:

Linda reported that the trees have been delivered from Hopewell Nursery; we were not able to get any short trees. The trees came delivered in a closed truck and so it took several hours for the DPW to unload them. Going forward we may look to another vendor for the purchase and deliver of trees. Chris is going to ask John Anlian where Ridgefield Park buys there trees keeping in mind that we must purchase container trees.

New Ordinance:

Linda requested that Chris get in touch with John Anlian so that we can obtain a rough draft of the new ordinance for review by Linda and Chris to ensure that all the necessary points are included. Peter informed STAC that the Liaison will need the ordinance to be reviewed by the Governing Body and the Attorney beginning June 1 to be handed out so discussions begin at the June 7 work session. Planning and Zoning Boards also will have commented on it by then as well.