

Westwood Shade Tree Advisory Committee - Minutes – March 12, 2012

Attendance: S. Scherba, V. Sauer, J. Russo and I. Quinn, council liaison and Mayor John Birkner stopped in for a brief period.

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." **This meeting has been tape recorded.**

The January 2012 and February 2012 minutes will be voted on at our April meeting.

Telephone Messages:

- Resident at 5 Goodwin Terrace wants tree stump removed
- Resident at 60 Lincoln Avenue wants tree removed
- Resident at 91 Fourth Avenue wants 3 tree stumps removed and the trees that were taken down, he wants replaced.

Spring Tree Planting:

Ingrid stated that Rick agreed to plant all the trees. He asked that a list of planting sites be provided to him a few weeks before the trees arrive. We will get this list to him as soon as possible. Ginny will call Tuckahoe Nursery to find out when the trees are scheduled for delivery as spring seems to have arrived with all the warm weather we have been having.

Council Liaison:

- Ingrid Quinn stated that per the current code book, STAC has 5 members and no alternate members. It was discussed that if STAC thought they needed alternate members they would have to put in a formal request.
- Misha property – Ingrid found out that there are not formal plans but that the planning/zoning boards are aware of restitution for trees on the property to the STAC restitution fund. As of this time, nothing further has happened in regard to building on this property.
- Ingrid provided STAC with the shade tree email address that all emails must be CC'd to.
- The address is shadetree@westwoodnj.gov
- Ingrid provided STAC with copies of a memo from Mayor John Birkner regarding conduct of all Open Public Meetings and asked that we review the rules and follow them.

Tree Inventory:

A training session was set up for Rio of the DPW and Paul Cowie, Paul Cowie had to cancel the training session and when it was rescheduled, Rio had to attend another meeting. Ginny will call Paul to have him reschedule a meeting with Rio.

Ordinance:

- Ingrid had questions regarding the procedures followed for obtaining the grant for John Anlian to work on updating the ordinance. Ginny shared that the State mandated Management Plan set a goal to update the tree ordinance for greater clarity to be more effective. The group agreed that the previous Liaison, Peter Grefrath was well aware of the committee's plans.
- Since Linda Hayes handled most of this paperwork for the grant, she can better answer any questions regarding this matter at the next meeting.
- When STAC is ready to present the revised ordinance to the Mayor and Council they are to make enough copies for all Mayor and Council as well as Russell Huntington. It was advised that the new areas of the ordinance be **highlighted by using a different font** than the items that remain the same in the ordinance. The Mayor and Council have their work sessions on the first Tuesday of every month. Mayor Birkner stated that the April meeting might not be the best time to present and he advised that the May meeting would be better. If we want the May 1st meeting to present, we are to make sure that John ANlian can attend as well as our members and we are to instruct and give the necessary copies of the proposed ordinance to Ingrid our council liaison as soon as possible.

Arbor Day:

Ginny is working with the Westwood library on an Arbor day presentation that includes information about the space shuttle tree that was planted last year.

Public Education:

Ginny brought up the idea of writing an article periodically for the "My Westwood" publication, in it we could give tree care information in timely fashion for the season we are in such as the importance of mulching in the summer and pruning after storms. John Russo may be able to help in this as he has good knowledge of trees.

CORE Credits:

Ginny spoke with a member of the Bergen Shade tree league about possibly having an educational presentation for new members and council liaison and possible get credit for this.

The meeting was opened to the public: no one from the public attended the meeting.

Meeting ended at 8:55 PM with Sheryl making a motion to close the meeting and John Russo seconded the motion.

