

## Westwood Shade Tree Advisory Committee - Minutes – April 9, 2012

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

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 January 2012, February 2012 and March 2012 minutes were voted on and approved.

### Telephone Messages:

- Resident at 6 Dogwood Court wants a tree
- Resident at 32 Clinton Ave wants a tree
- Resident at 40 Lester Ave wants a tree
- Resident at 670 Repetti St wants a tree

### In response to shade tree planting door tags the following messages were received:

- 39 Prospect does not have sprinklers and would like tree planted closer to lamp-pole if possible.
- 115 Prospect does not want a tree planted
- 100 Clairmont Ave wants a tree but will mark the spots where he has sprinklers
- 72 Harrington Ave wants an additional tree
- 2 Newark Ave does not want a tree planted

### Public Forum:

Robert Sasena stated that he visited Westvale Park and was impressed by the pavers in the walkway and the trees that line the walkway. He suggested that it would be nice if there were some shade in the form of trees for the dog park as it gets very hot from the sun there. WSTAC will see if there are any available trees from the spring tree purchase and Ingrid will find out if trees could even be planted in the dog park section.

### Spring Tree Planting:

Door tags alerting prospective tree recipients were distributed the weekend of March 31-April 1st by Chris and Sheryl. The new DPW secretary was not prepared for any calls responding to the tags. She told the responders to write a letter to the Shade tree Committee. In previous tree planting events, the DPW was notified prior to the distribution of these tags. Ginny, the current committee member handling the tree planting project was reminded of the correct procedure for future planting events. Chris suggested that the WSTAC should encourage residents to have the borough plant good trees in appropriate planting strip areas. Ginny mentioned the need to use the newspaper to inform the public about the benefits of trees to keep the community attractive, healthy and to reduce air pollution and noise. The trees will be delivered to the DPW in April – balled and burlaped as they were not available in containers and in an open truck not before 7AM.

### **Council Liaison:**

- The budget is to be voted on at the next public meeting – Ingrid believed the budget to be about \$10,000.
- Ingrid questioned why there were two separate charges on John Anlian's invoice for commission recommendations and shade tree ordinance revisions. She would like to see a copy of the proposal that was signed as well as original grant requirements. She questions what John Anlian was hired to do specifically. Chris said that he would look to see if he had a copy and Ginny will contact Linda to see if she can get a copy.
- Ingrid asked if Sheryl would contact [KHughes@westwoodnj.gov](mailto:KHughes@westwoodnj.gov) the day before each shade tree meeting in order for her to put the tape recorder in Ingrid's box so that it would be available for our monthly meeting.

### **Ordinance:**

- Ginny will follow up with Linda to see if she has received the revised version of the ordinance form John Anlian..Once STAC approves the revised ordinance, a copy should be sent to Russell Huntington. It was advised that **the new areas of the ordinance be highlighted by using a different font** – so that the changes may be more easily seen.
- The Mayor and Council have their work sessions on the first Tuesday of every month. STAC will plan to have a presentation of the revised ordinance at either the May or June work session.

### **Arbor Day:**

Ginny plans on displaying information about the space shuttle tree at the Westwood library for Arbor day.

WSTAC requested an Arbor Day Proclamation be read at the Mayor and Council Meeting this month. WSTAC also requested the town bulletin board post "Westwood – Tree City for the 9<sup>th</sup> Year – Celebrate Arbor Day April 27<sup>th</sup> – Plant a Tree – Make a Difference.

### **Tree Inventory:**

Rio of the DPW had two sessions with Paul COWie as she continues to learn how to use the tree inventory software.

### **Public Education:**

Ginny is trying to get a speaker for the Bergen Shade Tree League. The topic may be one which aids new committee members and liaisons in better understanding tree needs and current accepted arbor-practices. State budget considerations have limited the staff which normally would have been available for a speaking engagement.

John has suggested that a timely article be put in the local paper suggesting that residents attend to damaged trees from October's ice storm. He felt that some damaged branches may be visible before leaves open and should be addressed by a trained arborist.

Meeting ended at 8:55 PM with Chris making a motion to close the meeting and Ginny seconded the motion.

