



HAWTHORNE

Shade Tree Commission

BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
445 LAFAYETTE AVENUE, HAWTHORNE, NEW JERSEY 07506
PHONE: 427-5555 EXT. 318

November 11, 2008 Meeting Notes

Attendance: Philip Savoie (PS), Declan Madden (DM), Pieter Slump (PSL), John Terry (JT), Rick Hockenberry (RH), Patrick Allen (PA)-Borough Arborist, Joe Wojtecki (JW)-Council Liaison (20:30-21:00)
07:30PM-11:00PM

Motion to open meeting: 1st PS, 2nd RH, unanimous approval to open meeting.

1. Public session (if needed).

Motion to open public portion of meeting by PS, seconded by JT, unanimous approval to open public portion of meeting.

Tom Rica, 229 Van Winkle Ave. Cut the roots on Maple tree in front of residence, summons issued. Tree was removed as a hazard due to the undermining of the root support system.

Mr. Rica stated that he obtained a Borough permit for the water line and that inevitably the tree roots were going to have to be cut or removed in order to replace the water box. The resident stated that he was not notified by anyone in the Borough or Building Department that he had to be careful with the tree that was 27 inches from the water box shutoff valve when excavating the water box to replace it, when he obtained his plumbing permit. He had also made his 1-800 dig safe call as required for underground utility mark outs.

PS responded that part of the concern was that two trenches had been dug; one for the water box shutoff valve and one other trench for storm water removal from the property. The storm water trench did not necessarily have to be dug, and that the water pipe could have been handled better to avoid damaging the tree. PS stated that the issue of saving this tree during the impending Van Winkle Ave. re-construction project had been discussed with the resident approximately three weeks prior to this project occurring. Had

the Commission been notified of this situation an alternative or compromise might have been reached regarding this tree.

PA stated that the water box could have been accessed from the street.

DM abstained from the discussion due to the fact that the homeowner is also an employee of Ridgewood.

Mr. Rica was informed that the Commission would discuss this matter, considering Mr. Rica's presentation points and contact him regarding a resolution to this matter. This concluded this matter at this time.

Motion to close public meeting by PS, seconded by DM, unanimous approval.

Motion to open executive portion by PS, seconded JT, unanimous approval.

2. Review & approve October 2008 meeting notes.

PS motion to approve October 2008 meeting notes, seconded PSL, unanimous approval to accept the notes.

20:30 Arrival - Joe Wojtecki – Brought up these points:

Homeowner in the area of Parmalee and Warren expressed concern that 7 trees came down without any area residents being notified. PA will call one of the Commissioners if he takes down 3 or more trees on one property.

Stumps also need to be removed. PSL told Joe that we're trying to get rid of the stumps.

The Borough Council mentioned that HSTC would discuss residents' purchasing trees, donating them to the town, and the town would plant the trees at cost.

PSL told JW that the Commission does not approve of the leasing of the boom truck to Pompton Lakes for various reasons to be explained in a forthcoming letter.

DM brought up that we paid \$6000 to fix the stump grinder but it seems that stumps are not being taken care of. Departure of Council Liaison 21:00.

3. Budget review.

A. 11/5/08 history.

B. End of year expenditure discussion. Projections and anticipated costs. Purchase orders prepared for Spring'09 planting projects and Downes Tree Service for removals/trims and ACRT class for Arborist & grounds workers. Attachment.

C. 2009 Budget. Still to be submitted.

Mention only.

4. Old Business items.

A. Letters still to be written to residents, property owners, etc.

1. 4 Washington Ave. Property owner.
2. 84 Buena Vista Ave., Resident & Contractor.
3. 151 First Ave. Resident. Additional question: Based upon PA's two inspections of this tree, should the previous response proposal be reconsidered?
4. Mill Loft project guidance. Property owner & Mayor/Council. Letter written 8/6/08 to developer. No response yet.
5. 187/183 Third Ave. removal/pruning request.
6. 218 Westervelt Ave. regarding removal request to Borough Hall.
7. 8/15/08 letter for 196 Mountain Ave. Removal request for dead tree, inspection results. 2nd letter received 9/22/08. 3rd letter received 11/1/08.
8. 9/4/08 letter for 549 Goffle Hill Rd. Removal request, discussion?
9. 9/9/08 e-mail from DPW regarding removal at 159 Mountain Ave. Resident unhappy w/removals. Response? Letter also received by Mayor. Ask resident if a replacement tree is requested?

Mention only, follow up by PSL and PS.

B. General Borough planting planned for Spring '09 based upon contractors response to Fall '08 planting proposal requests. Planting location list updated from Spring'08 planting. Planting proposal requests sent out by Pieter. Two contractors chosen. Purchase orders to be sent out shortly.

TBD – where to plant the 20 trees from Tode Landscaping. Put a message on Channel 77.

C. Replacement plantings at pool update. Completed on Oct.17, 2008. Two (2) Quercus bicolor (Swamp white oak) planted.

Mention only.

D. Ordinance Committee. No action, still to be pursued. Issue regarding legal actions for discussion. Start with Chapter 54 to make process easier?

The Commission should be expanded to a total of 7 commissioners and 2 alternates to encourage more public participation and make the work load easier. PSL and / or PS to follow up.

E. Enforcement follow up activities:

1. Roughgarden replanting issue. Still to be done, Spring'09.

Mention only.

2. Revisit Lafayette Ave. Ext. case? Home not sold, trees never replanted. Lien put on property but not resolving issue.

PSL suggests pursuing the homeowner in order to resolve the issue. PS to follow up.

3. 53 Florence Ave. Mason contractor failure to notify issue. Letter still to be written.

PS to write letter.

4. 8 Cider Mill Rd. Sept. 19, 2008. Clearview Landscaping. Illegal trim and partial removal. Summons written. Discussion.

Decision made to pursue the contractor for replacement value of tree and fine. Issue summons. To be given a choice of completing removal at his own cost, tree & stump, or having the Borough remove the tree and billing him for services. PA stated that the tree needs to be removed due to safety hazard.

- F. Proposal for shared services lease agreement of aerial truck to Borough of Pompton Lakes. Draft letter completed. More to be added and submitted to Administration. Commissioners may have to attend Council meeting to discuss issue and explain Commission position.

Previously discussed with Council Liaison. Mention only. Letter to Administrator still to be submitted.

- G. 50 Braen Ave. Letter from Building Dept. & referral from Planning Board. Sub-division of property. Removal issue for at least one street tree. Comments requested shortly. Meeting before Board on Oct. 7, 2008. Follow up letter to developer & Board still needed.

Mention only, PS to follow up..

5. New items

- A. Street rebuilding issues with Borough Engineer & contractors. October 13, 2008 letter from resident regarding Tuxedo Ave. issue. Response requested from resident. Discussion.

HSTC should write a letter to Boswell Engineering stating their displeasure with the events related to the above matter (Tuxedo Ave. road rebuilding project and root cutting incident and lack of communication when guidance had been provided to the Borough Engineer for this project for tree issues) with a copy to the Council & Administration. Regarding the possible summons, HSTC will wait for Joe Wojtecki's guidance. Resident will also get a letter. Mike Pasquale will be consulted in order to determine if Boswell can be summoned. HSTC discussion leaned towards summoning Smith Soudy and/or GR Contractors. PA recommends charging the contractor for the remediation treatment for the tree (Cambistat).

B. Enforcement cases.

1. 163 10th Ave. Oct.10, 2008. Casabona Construction/Suburban sidewalks. Illegal root grinding during sidewalk repair. Summons written. Discussion.

PA recommends Cambistat treatment. HSTC will seek a fine commensurate with the circumstances surrounding this case.

2. 229 Van Winkle Ave. Oct.13, 2008. Replacement of water service and installation of stormwater piping resulted in unsafe condition for tree at this location by property owner. Tree removed. Summons written. Discussion.

DM abstained from this discussion due to a conflict of interest. HSTC will seek a fine commensurate with the circumstances surrounding this case and a replacement cost associated with the loss of this tree. See previous public session discussion.

C. Letters/request for removal/other, discussion & action:

1. 10/7/08 letter for 17 Dogwood Drive. Request for inspection and possible removal of two tree, one oak (?) & one locust.

PA says that the oak is on the removal list. Locust is healthy and should not be removed.

2. 10/13/08 letter for 5 Karl Ave. Request for tree inspection and trim if necessary.

PA says that the tree needs to be removed. Add to removal list.

D. Training/educational issues:

1. ACRT class @ Downes in Feb./March 2009. Which other employees to attend? Discussion.

PA recommends that Chris Ellibrook and Clayton Turner attend.

2. Spring 2009 Courses.

Discussion based Rutgers 2009 offering. CORE training for Council Liaison? Mention only.

E. 2009 proposed meeting dates.

January 6, 2009
February 3, 2009 – *perhaps Feb. 10 ?*
March 3, 2009
April 7, 2009
May 5, 2009
June 9, 2008 (2nd Tue. of month)
July 7, 2009
August 3, 2009
Sept. 9, 2009 (2nd Wednesday of month)
October 6, 2009
November 10, 2009 (2nd Tue. of month)
December 1, 2009

Mention only, for approval at next meeting.

F. Anything else?

Request from Carmen Ruta, Hawthorne Environmental Commission, for species identification and tagging of trees in the Eight-Acre Woods. The Environmental Commission is working on a grant to improve public outreach for use of this Borough environmental resource and trails. PA to pursue this request with permission from Borough management.

PS motion to close, seconded by PSL, unanimous approval.

November 11, 2008 HSTC Meeting

Budget Addendum-Final Cost Projections

\$Totals

Current remaining budget:	39,866.04
1. Trees & planting: Spring '09.	- 25,350.00
	<u>14,516.04</u>
2. PA clothing allowance.	- 500.00
	<u>14,016.04</u>
3. ACRT training, 3 people. (Downes Tree).	- 1,500.00
	<u>12,516.04</u>
4. Hawthorne Press Meeting announcement for 2009.	- 30.00
	<u>12,486.04</u>
5. JIF money, labor or crane work.	- 6,600.00
	<u>5,886.04</u>
6. File cabinet for HSTC materials.	- 913.00
	<u>4,973.04</u>
7. ANSI A300/Z133 standards, ISA.	- 200.00
	<u>4,773.04</u>
8. Mileage and toll reimbursements for '08 NJSTFM.	- 304.00
	<u>4,469.04</u>
9. Back up camera for shade tree truck. (Not funded by Oct.'08 meeting.)	- 0.00
	<u>4,469.04</u>
10. Downes trim fee for Reservoir Rd. & other removals w/crane service.	- 4,135.00
	<u>334.04</u>
11. Fire hydrant wrench & hydrant/hose adapter.	- 200.00
Remaining balance.	<u>134.04</u>
12. Truck maint. account balance. To be used for bak up camera for aerial lift truck, As per Oct.'08 meeting decision.	+ 250.00