



HAWTHORNE

Shade Tree Commission

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

July 8, 2008 Meeting Notes

Attendance: Philip Savoie (PS), Rick Hockenberry (RH), Patrick Allen (PA)-Borough Arborist 07:30PM-10:30PM
Absent: Pieter Slump (PSS), Declan Madden (DM), John Terry (JT) & Joe Wojtecki (JW)-Council Liaison

7:30 pm – Open meeting.
8:10 pm – John Terry (JT) arrived.

1. Public session (if needed).

Motion to open public portion of meeting. 1st PS, 2nd RH, unanimous vote to approve opening of public portion of meeting.

In attendance was resident Philip Speulda of Diamond Bridge Ave. He stated he was concerned about trees located at 353 Diamond Bridge Ave. (dead tree) and 363 Diamond Bridge Ave. (dead branches at house). Borough Arborist PA addressed each of these addresses issues. PA stated that 353 is a County tree as Diamond Bridge Ave. is considered a County road for removal purposes and that the County had been notified for a removal request. 363 currently has no work order in the system to request service for this address. Mr. Speulda was advised to call the DPW for a Work Order request for this address.

Motion to close the public portion of meeting. 1st PS, 2nd JT, unanimous vote to approve opening of public portion of meeting.

Attendance by Eric Maurer (Borough Administrator) (EM) & Mike Pasquale (Borough Attorney)(MP). Discussion of Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) money & ordinance schedule was discussed.

The JIF monies were received by the Borough as payment for loss of services of the Arborist during the Arborist's sick leave. The monies are to be used for services that the Arborist would have performed in order to maintain public services. The Commission had been interested in discussing with Administration appropriate uses of this money. In particular, the Commission was interested in pursuing the hiring of temporary worker(s) during the Fall season to assist the Arborist during leaf pickup/removal season, so that arbor work would not stop totally during this period. EM had indicated this might not be easy to pursue and had come to the meeting to discuss the issue. EM stated that in 2007 the Borough could only get two temporary workers for leaf season and that the Borough was lucky to get one that had a CDL drivers license. EM was not sure that it would be possible to get such workers again this year using the JIF monies. This discussion also briefly touched upon the issue of backlog and work scheduling, which MP had some comments about this issue.

The Commission wanted to further pursue this issue. Could Passaic County prisoners be used for this activity? EM was not comfortable with this suggestion and did not think the County would be willing to provide the manpower even if it was paid. A temporary agency suggestion was made again but this was not supported. The discussion ended with two thoughts:

- 1. Meet with Borough CFO MJ Hewitt to discuss what an appropriate use of the funds would be, for what actual uses.*
- 2. Contact Downes Tree Service to determine if hiring workers to work with the Borough Arborist is possible.*

The next issue discussed was the Borough's Shade Tree Ordinance review. This ordinance has not yet come up for review yet as part of the overall Borough's Ordinance updates but MP indicated that the time is about right to start this activity. He requested that materials related to the update requests be sent to him to begin the drafting of the updated ordinance. A comment was also made that residents are concerned about imminent hazardous trees as a danger on private property and that this issue may want to be addressed in the updated ordinance or to have a procedure to deal with these matters. MP thought the Borough Code Enforcement Officer should be able to pursue these type of matters currently under Borough Code. It was not clear that this is occurring or if this is the correct way to address this issue. The matter went no further at this time.

2. Review & approve June 2008 meeting notes.

Tabled until the August 2008 meeting.

3. Budget review.

A. 7/3/08 history.

1. Several purchase orders to be reviewed:

- A. 43476 Fremgen.
- B. 43505 Ridgewood typewriter.
- C. 43474 T-shirts.

Questions on originations of orders and what goods or services were received. Call made to request answers to questions.

Mention only, Phil to follow up.

2. Bill for Hawthorne Press received for public outreach advertisements for Cel-Earth-Bration & Arbor Day. Approximately \$185.00.

Mention only.

3. 53 Rea Ave. Ext. Letter sent Certified/RRR to Mr. Cirino dated May 16, 2008. Letter explained replacement assessment invoice and issue of attorney's current status to Mr. Cirino. Letter was received May 20, 2008. **No response from Mr. Cirino regarding follow up w/insurance company since this contact.**

Recommendation for the following:

- A. Call Mr. Cirino one last time for response.
- B. If the response is not acceptable, contact the Borough Court to schedule a further proceeding due to the failure to resolve this issue. Subpoena PA to attend hearing along with a Commissioner.

4. Additional money received into account for JIF reimbursement for the arborist's absence. Possible visit by Borough Administrator (E.Maurer) to discuss proposals by the Commission for uses for these funds, to follow up on June 2008 meeting recommendation.

See discussion in above public portion of meeting.

3. **Old Business items.**

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

1. 65 Pasadena Place. Resident.
2. 4 Washington Ave. Property owner.
3. 84 Buena Vista Ave., Resident & Contractor.
4. 151 First Ave. Resident. Additional question: Based upon PA's two inspections of this tree, should the previous response proposal be reconsidered?
5. Mill Loft project guidance. Property owner & Mayor/Council.

Mention only, not completed.

B. Brookside Place replanting. Projected planting date reassessment. New planting list being updated.

Mention only.

C. Follow up with Administration about replacement plantings at pool. No response from East Coast Landscaping with obtaining alternate species for this location. How long can Administration honor replanting commitment? Other species suggestions?

Not discussed at this meeting.

D. Ordinance Committee. No activity yet, ask Administration how soon Committee will need materials for review.

See discussion in above public portion of meeting.

E. Planting plans for Fall '08. Planting location list being updated from Spring'08 planting. Discuss target date for planting. Vendor recommendations. Species recommendations.

Decision made to use October 2008 as a Fall 2008 planting target date.

4. **New items**

A. Enforcement cases ongoing: None at this time.

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

1. Letter dated 6/19/08 for 183 Third Ave. Request for removal or other arbor activities in regard to sycamore at this location. Inspection and response needed. Recommendations for response.

The tree at this address is healthy at this time as per the Borough Arborist and no trimming is needed. A recommendation was made that the Arborist would help with guidance with sidewalk replacement if the resident decided to replace the sidewalk adjacent to the tree. Motion to deny removal request: 1st PS, 2nd RH. Unanimous vote to deny request to remove this tree. A decision was made to deny the removal.

C. Tree inventory database. Discussion.

Brief discussion, hire services to update database? PA has not had time to update database due to workload.

D. Anything else?

1. *Potential enforcement case? 103 Cornell, spiked tree from tree service work performed inappropriately?*
2. *56 Ruth. To whom does the tree belong to? Borough or resident? Potential removal issue.*

Motion to close meeting (10:30pm).

1st PS, 2nd RH, unanimous vote to close meeting.