



HAWTHORNE

Shade Tree Commission

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

July 7, 2009 Meeting Notes

Attendance: Philip Savoie (PS), John Terry (JT), Pieter Slump (PSL), Rick Hockenberry (RH) , Arborist Patrick Allen (PA)

Absent: Declan Madden (DM), Joe Wojtecki, Council liaison.

Meeting 07:30PM-10:30PM

1. Public session (if needed).

Motion to open public meeting PSL, seconded RH, unanimous vote to approve opening of public portion of meeting.

Resident Paul Giordano came to thank us for removing the catalpa tree in front of his home. He would like a small tree to be planted in front of his house in the fall.

Resident Paul Cantello of 37 Sylvester Ave. The resident had several questions for the Commission.

A. Came to Commission with a concern regarding PSEG's tree trimming. He does not want PSEG to touch his tree, but has been unable to communicate with anyone at PSEG.

B. The trees on 208 have been severely cut back, leaving only stumps or stalks. The resident plans on reaching out to PSEG to ask them to improve their practices.

C. The resident is also concerned about the watering of the trees that the state planted this past spring. The Commission is looking into monitoring the rainfall with some sort of procedure. Additionally the Commission will contact the State about having the planting contractor water the trees or the State to water the trees. However, the natural rainfall has also been of such an amount that the trees appear to be receiving sufficient water.

D. The resident's has a concern that the tree in the planned park on the corner of Diamond Bridge and Lafayette. The tree is scheduled to be removed as part of the current plan. While Commission expressed disappointment that the tree may be removed, the HSTC does not have jurisdiction over trees on private property.

E. The resident's next concern is stump removal, specifically several on his street and surrounding streets that have not been removed for over a year. The Commission replied that there is a list of the stumps & addresses with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and that the DPW is in charge of carrying out the specific tasks. The Commission is not sure when the specific work will be accomplished.

F. The resident's last concern regards displaying tree information / tree request forms at the Manager's Table at the Farmer's Market. The resident is involved in running the Farmer's Market and would like to handle a tree request list. The Commission supports the public's interest in planting trees in the Borough, however the Commission cannot make a commitment at this time due to time constraints to have HSTC members at the market at this time.

PS motion to close public session, seconded RH, unanimous approval to close the public portion of the meeting.

2. Review June 2009 meeting notes.

Motion by PS to accept June meeting notes, seconded RH. Unanimous approval to accept meeting notes.

3. Budget review.

A. 112 North 8th Street removal.

Difficult removal, Downes Tree Service removals charge for \$2500, ok.

B. PO for Northeastern for \$500.00 prepared and submitted.

Aspen Horticultural Services invoice and documents submitted.

Mention only. Aspen has not sent in report yet.

C. Shade Tree Federation meeting in October 2009.

PS, PSL, PA & DM plans on going. JT might like to go (depending on date), RH can't make it. Paperwork to be submitted in September.

D. Planting appropriations discussion for Fall 2009 & Spring 2010.
Approx \$25,000 in the budget for tree planting at this time. Decision to focus Fall 2009 planting on anticipated state planting as part of Cool Cities planting. Focus remaining tree money on Spring 2010 planting. Start the bidding process for the Spring 2010 planting now. Look into consultant help for Spring planting monitoring.

4. Old Business items.

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

122 Washington Ave. LLC. Based upon Commission decision, agreement prepared and presented to Mr. Tony Dello Buono for review, dated June 17, 2009. Document signed by Mr. Dello Buono and PS on June 23, 2009. Inspection for new driveway location field checked 6/26/09 by PS. Sidewalk excavation to occur in near future and inspection request for arborist to inspect second tree and provide instruction.

Mention only.

B. General Borough planting planned for Spring '09. Borst planting completed, post-planting letters sent out July 3, 2009. Final comments and activities.

The Commission thanks Commissioner Declan Madden for handling the planting with Borst Landscaping.

C. Ordinance Committee. Follow up e-mail sent to M.Pasquale regarding final language ordinances.

The borough attorney responded to PS's email saying that the ordinance update will appear on the website in the fall. PS will email the file from the attorney to the Commissioners for our review.

D. Enforcement follow up activities: Review list.

1. 45 Summit Ave. Burying of two Borough trees in planter. Follow up required by July 31, 2009.

It doesn't look like the resident has fixed the situation yet. They have approx. 3 more weeks to rectify the problem.

2. 9 Norma Terrace. Illegal root disturbance due to trenching of sewer replacement lateral resulting in removal of tree for safety considerations. No assignment yet. Discussion.

We recommend that Code Enforcement officer process the violation with technical assistance by borough arborist and HSTC. PA must attend court with Code Enforcement officer. HSTC will follow up with DPW and Administration.

3. 259 Diamond Bridge Ave. Illegal removal of recently planted tree during State of New Jersey planting, within several days of planting. Court case completed, replacement assessment paid. New tree planting planned.

The oak tree from 266 Lafayette Ave will be moved by Borst to 259 Diamond Bridge Ave.

E. 280 9th Ave.(6th Ave.) PSE&G 9th Ave. substation. Recent visit. Some plants appear in danger of dying, browning out. Monitoring required.

Mention only.

F. Cool Cities Planting Update. Final address/species list provided by state for Borough records. Follow up care letters still need to be sent out. Additional planting for Fall 2009, discussion of project.

PS is concerned about contacting residents before planting. It was decided that we would continue as in the spring with mailbox stuffers and sending out the state flyers before the planting and then handle inquiries at a later date. A separate Borough notification letter was also suggested but no decision was made to pursue this option.

G. 136 Grand Ave. Tree & stump removed.

Mention only, work has been done.

H. Hawthorne Day planning.

Event at end of September 2009. PSL is working on this, contact with event coordinators and contacting PSE&G about electrical safety demonstration. RH will get a donated tree from an area nursery to be raffled off for this event. Event table planned.

I. Results of Aspen inspections. 2009 road rebuilding projects and other results.

The Aspen inspections determined additional removals would be needed for the 2009 road rebuilding projects. Commission will also plan for tree well installation where possible with sidewalk work. Other trees were found to be in good condition or to be watched for future inspection and health.

5. New items

A. Enforcement cases.

1. 43 Minerva. Trench in front of house by pear tree. Some roots cut. Discussion.

Issue summons? – Code Enforcement Officer / PS to pursue.

B. Arbor work schedule and building backlog. Discussion.

There is a concern that little action on high priority removals and trims is occurring. It is thought that the Borough has approx. 40 high priority tree removals and 50 high priority tree trimmings.

Recommendation to meet with DPW shortly to discuss this situation.

There is a chance of negligence or liability on behalf of the Borough if the work is not completed in a timely fashion.

C. Borough Hall Verizon project discussion and recommendations.

PS wrote a memo to Boswell where HSTC repeats suggestions for the protection of the trees in front of Borough Hall (specifically the Douglas Fir that has a very high replacement cost value) and makes recommendations as to how Verizon should proceed with construction in front of the building to protect the trees and plant in general.

D. Fall'09 planting planning & schedule. Discussion.

1. Lafayette Ave. survey results.

Check with state to determine if this is an acceptable use for Cool Cities trees but it is suspected it is not due to this area being a commercial district. PS to follow up with state representative. July 2009 Lafayette Ave. tree well review determined that currently 10 to 12 trees need to be replanted along Lafayette Ave.

2. Grand Ave. near library.

Try to add to state planting if possible or add to next year's spring planting?

3. Request list.

Check with state representative to determine if individual requests are allowed.

E. Anything else?

Motion - PS would like to purchase 4 Tree City USA signs to replace the existing signs and be able to display growth awards. Cost would also include shipping. Seconded by JT, unanimous approval to authorize purchase.

RH motion to close meeting, seconded PSL, unanimous approval to close meeting.