



# HAWTHORNE

## Shade Tree Commission

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

### August 4, 2009 Meeting Notes

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

#### 1. Public session (if needed).

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

*Pat Wonder, 17 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. – potential volunteer, would like to help during the day. She prefers not to participate during the evening.*

*Jack and Chris Fanin, 44 Tuxedo Ave. – Several issues.*

- A. Concern for a tree on Rea Ave Extension – sticking out into the road, marked with road cone currently. PS responded that HSTC will look into having the DPW or the county clear up this potential hazard.*
- B. Also, he would like his red maple trees to be trimmed. The trees were planted by the town and were previously trimmed back. The resident has seen a bicyclist knocked off her bicycle. He has tried to contact DPW but has not gotten an answer as to when or if the trees would get pruned again.*
- C. Indicated that the trees are “splitting” on their sides. The residents requested to “whitewash” the trees to protect them, using a white latex paint/lime solution with water. The residents indicated they have had experience in this matter and would forward information to the Commission about this subject.*

*Joe Wojtecki – The Borough is hiring a grant writer in the near future. JW recommends that HSTC look for potential grants that HSTC has not gotten in the past.*

*Paul Cantello, 34 Sylvester Ave. – gave us a list of 4 addresses for tree planting that he collected at the Farmer's Market.*

*Resident mentioned 122 Washington Ave, that both trees have been taken down. PS informed the resident that the first tree was structurally unsound and would have had to come down in a short time. PS explained to the resident the agreement that was reached with the owner, that also included provisions for removal of the second tree in the event that the construction activities on the front yard resulted in the second tree needing to be removed. The agreement with the property owners provided the Borough with tree replacement funds for the loss of these two trees.*

*Motion to close public portion of meeting PS, seconded by RH, unanimous approval to close the public portion of the meeting.*

## **2. Budget review.**

**A.** *Shade Tree Federation meeting in October 2009. RH – does not plan on attending, DM, PSL, PS, PA to attend. JT unknown.*

**B.** *Planting appropriations discussion for Spring 2010. Plan to tighten up the bid specs by the end of August. PS will contact S. Schuckman to gauge his interest in working for HSTC next spring for planting and monitoring purposes.*

*PSL motion to appropriate \$30,000 for Spring 2010 planting (including professional services and all materials). Seconded DM, unanimous approval to appropriate budget monies for spring planting and services.*

**C.** *Budget history review: C&C tire, PO# 44947. 2 account payment. Why? PS will look into the charge for \$70.14 from C & C Tire. It should be put into the Vehicle Maintenance Account. Also, which truck is T – 1?*

**D.** *End of year projections discussion.*

*PS motion to appropriate \$15K for stump grinding and material cleanup, seconded by DM, unanimous approval.*

### **3. Old Business items.**

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

122 Washington Ave. LLC. New letter needed w/invoice for the removal of second tree.

*PS will send out the invoice.*

**B.** General Borough planting planned for Spring '10. *PS will update the planting list. The Spring 2010 planting will be put out for public bid this fall, as soon as possible.*

**C.** Ordinance Committee. E-mail from Borough Attorney received, review still needed for final language check.

*Mention only.*

**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. Need to inspect this address.

*PS recommends that commissioners look at the planters to see if the dirt and rocks have been removed. Follow up required.*

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.

*PSL to write the summons with Don Turner, for both the homeowner and the contractor.*

3. 259 Diamond Bridge Ave. Tree replaced but died. New tree for Spring'10? Removal of dead tree. *Waiting on response from Borst Landscaping / Jay Crean. If Borst does not replant, we will put this address on the Spring 2010 planting list.*

4. 43 Minerva. Trench in front of house by pear tree. Some roots cut. Follow up still needed.

*PS plans on writing a warning letter to the property owner.*

*Homeowner did not contact HSTC before disturbing the tree roots, but appears tree will have survived trenching.*

5. Insurance claim for trees knocked down on Lafayette Ave.  
*Mention only. PS to follow up.*

**E. Cool Cities Planting Update.** Additional planting for Fall 2009, discussion of project. Contact with NJFS rep. Fall'09 planting planning & schedule. Discussion.

*The state plans on putting in 150 – 200 trees. State representative will be sending a contract addendum to the Mayor requiring that municipal representatives must be onsite when planting activities are occurring. Locations still to be decided by state representative with input from HSTC.*

**F. Hawthorne Day planning.** Issue regarding electrical wire demonstration. Response to utility? Public outreach?

*PSL – Tree raffle, ISA brochures, but no need for PSEG tabletop demonstration.*

**G. Borough Hall Verizon project discussion.** Planning Board testimony.

*PS went to Planning Board testimony for this project. Brought up the following issues: the pad orientation was incorrect to protect the tree, fencing should be installed during construction to protect tree, the natural gas line path may be an issue, especially with the veteran monuments and that the construction of the pad's activities should be discussed in ADVANCE of the construction as this project may have major impacts on the existing landscaping of the Borough's building.*

#### **4. New items**

**A. Enforcement cases.** No new cases at this time. *Mention only.*

**B. Letters from residents.**

1. 202 Tenth Ave.-Request for tree evaluation and action due to dropping branches condition. Letter dated 7/9/09.

*Trees to be trimmed and cabled by Downes.*

2. 151 First Ave.-Tree removal request. Residents wrote Commission in correspondence dated 5/19/08 and on 7/10/09.

*Arborist Patrick Allen will do an inspection of the tree.*

**C. Anything else?**

*Issue of withheld contractor money for root disturbance @ 59 Tuxedo Ave. during the 2008 road reconstruction project was discussed. After consultation with an arbor company regarding root treatments for this tree to help heal the damage from the sidewalk project, it was determined that this treatment cannot be applied due to the constriction of the open areas around this tree. Should monies be used for replanting or removals? PSL to follow up with Administration.*

*RH motion to close the meeting, seconded DM, unanimous approval to close the meeting.*