



HAWTHORNE

Shade Tree Commission

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

April 7, 2009 Meeting Notes

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

1. Public session (if needed).

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

Resident Paul Giardino of 136 Grand Ave spoke to us regarding a tree & sidewalk conflict. He would like to repair his sidewalk but a Borough tree at this location is making this difficult due to the location of the tree, the sidewalk and close proximity to his home. Mr. Giardino is asking for guidance to determine if the tree could be removed or how to proceed regarding sidewalk replacement. PA indicated he thought the species to be a catalpa tree. He recommended the resident lift/remove the sidewalk and then call for an inspection. PA will advise the homeowner then as to where the sidewalk would go to in his front yard.

Motion to close public portion meeting PSL, seconded by RH, unanimous approval to close public portion of meeting.

2. Review March 2009 meeting notes.

PS motion to approve, JT seconded, unanimous approval to accept March 2009 meeting notes.

3. Budget review.

A. 2009 Budget. No change, not yet approved. Working off temporary budget. Attended meeting on April 6, 2009 with Mayor &

Finance Committee. Not clear when final budget will be approved.
Discussion.

PS met with Finance Committee yesterday April 6. JW arrived and discussed finance matters. Budget not yet introduced to Council for vote.

- B. 1.** Request for funds for publicity campaign in Hawthorne Press and other media sources to better publicize Borough Shade Tree Ordinance requirements and policies regarding Borough shade trees, as well as tree care subjects.

Take out a regular ad in the Hawthorne Press? 13 ads in the Hawthorne Press would cost approx \$600 for a 2 column, 5" ad. PS suggests a "Tree Time" informative column. DM, PS and PSL will work on the articles.

PS motion to spend \$600 for ad in Hawthorne Press, seconded by RH, unanimous approval to make expenditure for ads in paper.

Suggestion to put in column in the magazine Main Street? Needs follow up.

PSL will look at borough website to suggest improvements.

- 2.** NJ Shade Tree Federation 2009 dues & membership roster PO prepared for processing and handed in. *Mention only.*

4. Old Business items.

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

6 letters still unanswered from 2008. Cancel follow up due to time passage? Discussion.

DM suggests looking at Washington Ave. site, to see if we can plant other species of trees at that site rather than the pear species.

After discussing the timeliness of the remaining unanswered letters, the commission decided to drop the remaining 2008 letters as not relevant at this time.

1 Norma Terrace. Letter dated 2/17/09. PA inspected trees. Some further inspection/trimming to take place as needed. PS met with residents to discuss their concerns, letter to be generated. Trees not to be removed.

Mention only. Follow up required.

B. General Borough planting planned for Spring '09. Inspection of tree species w/Borst representative performed on 4/3/09 w/PA & PS. PS to provide final planting list to DM. Several planting replacement addresses inspections may need to be quickly performed. Tode list needs to be finalized, Washington School part of this planting. Discussion.

PS to get list of addresses/species to DM for Borst planting. PSL will coordinate the trees from Tode. School planting decided to use zelkova species with one additional ceremonial tree for Arbor Day event.

Start new planting list for remaining addresses on existing planting list and add new requests.

C. Ordinance Committee. Update, PSL & PS.

We haven't heard back from Borough Attorney Mike Pasquale re. updating the ordinance. The Mayor is supportive of expanding the Commission, to what extent is not yet known.

Note: Resident Matt Burgiss joined the meeting at this time. Mr. Burgiss indicated that he is interested in tree related activities of the Commission and wanted to attend the meeting. He has had and currently has employment in the arboricultural industry.

D. Enforcement follow up activities: Monitor for Spring '09 after freeze season passes. To be followed up in April 2009. Calls to be made for follow up for root treatments. Review list.

DM agreed to make call to Bartlett Tree to find out costs for Cambistat treatments. Unknown if treatment for Rhoades Park was completed. Additional follow up for 55 Westervelt Ave. needed.

8 Cider Mill Rd. update. PS spoke with insurance company 4/1/09. Defendant's insurance company will pay full claim amount. Release document signed and submitted to company. Waiting for payment to be submitted to Commission within next few weeks.

Mention only – waiting on payment from 8 Cider Mill. Reminder letter needs to be sent to Roughgarden, to remind him that he is responsible for planting a replacement tree.

E. 280 9th Ave.(6th Ave.) PSE&G 9th Ave. substation. Any arbor work occurring yet?

PA – Tree removal starts tomorrow, planting thought to start next week.

F. NJDEP 2008 CSIP Grant. Met with State Forestry representatives 3/6/09. Update and discussion. Next grant application discussion.

Mention only.

G. 2009 Arbor Day event. Planning for event in progress, Washington School site. Update PSL.

Tode will be doing the planting at Washington School, along Westervelt and North 17th. Press advertising taken care of.

H. Cool Cities Planting offer from NJDEP State of New Jersey and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. Locations chosen. Total of 214 locations (trees) in three areas of the Borough identified. Flyers delivered to all addresses. DPW taking calls, PS returning calls to applicable addresses included in this State planting. State ordering trees, planting in approximately 30 to 45 days. Pre-planting work load: removals & stumps. Discussion.

Mention only. This planting project has been approved by the mayor and council.

5. New items

A. Enforcement cases.

1. 115 E. Prospect Ave. Illegal removal of tree. Summons issued for resident & arbor company.

Court date is April 23. Fines for removal and replacement assessment for tree removed.

2. 60 N. Watchung Ave. Illegal trimming of tree. Follow up required. *RH feels that the tree is in decent shape. PA will review. Summons and fine will be dependent on tree inspection.*

3. Hillcrest Ave. Illegal trimming of four Borough trees. Follow up required.

Summons and a fine. PS motion to issue summons of \$200 fine.

A motion was made in regard to the above cases for fines and replacement assessment for Item A.1. above by PS. PSL seconded, unanimous approval for enforcement actions decided upon.

B. Letters/request for removal/other, discussion & action:
None at this time.

C. Fall'09 planting schedule. Discussion.

Begin right after Spring 2009 planting completed. Start planning in June 2009 latest.

D. Phone call system duties, recent changes. Update, PS.

Mention only. Lee Pelosi from the Water Dept./DPW Administration is taking the calls to the hotline. Most calls for service and inspection are being forwarded by Lee to DPW. Planting requests and other questions are being forwarded to the Commission (at this time PS).

E. Shade Tree Federation Annual meeting. Calendar review & interest in attendance.

Mention only.

- F. 2009 road rebuilding project inspections. 12 roads proposed to be resurfaced, rebuilt. Need to assign inspections for tree reviews and recommendations ASAP to provide feedback to Borough & Engineer before projects begin.

PSL will check to see if town knows what streets are going to be paved.

- G. Anything else?

PA mentioned that the following addresses should review due to conflicts with the water boxes. The Water Department has requested inspections and potential removals.

368 Diamond Bridge – large plane tree. The water box should be moved to a different spot so that we don't lose the tree. If tree had to be removed, we would have to hire it out.

89 Parmalee – PA could get at the water box by doing a plunge cut, but PSL recommends moving the water box in this case too, due to potential damage to tree (large maple). PSEG would have to remove this tree.

261 9th Ave – very large oak, would be crane job if this had to be removed. PSL suggests putting in new water line in order to avoid damaging the tree.

Crane removals cost approx \$3000 per tree, it should be cheaper and easier to move the water lines.

RH motion to close meeting, seconded by JT, unanimous approval to close meeting.