



HAWTHORNE

Shade Tree Commission

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

September 9, 2009 Meeting Notes

Attendance: Philip Savoie (PS), Declan Madden (DM), Pieter Slump (PSL), John Terry (JT), Arborist Patrick Allen (PA), Council Liaison Joe Wojtecki (JW) 8:00-8:30 PM.

Absent: Rick Hockenberry (RH)

Meeting 07:30PM-10:30PM

JW was present early in the meeting to ask for feedback and news. PS notified him of several topics.

1. Public session (if needed).

PS motion to open public session, seconded PSL, unanimous approval to open public portion of meeting.

Mr. Jack Fannin-44 Tuxedo Ave. He would like to know if we reached a decision regarding whitewashing his trees. DM checked with Bartlett Tree Services and he suggests that it would be better to use a tree wrap to prevent scalding.

Additionally, he asked over a year ago that his trees be trimmed and the crown raised, and went back to the office in Borough Hall on June 9, 2009. A work order was made and Patrick was able to do some work but not all of it. He is not happy that over 3 months have passed by and yet the trees have not been taken care of. The resident states that the DPW is not handling the shade tree duties appropriately.

PS to call DPW regarding this work order for Mr. Fannin's work order (#4435).

PS motion to close public portion of meeting, seconded JT, unanimous approval to close public portion of meeting.

2. Budget review.

A. Shade Tree Federation meeting in October 2009.

Mention only, PS reviewed dates of attendance with Commissioners.

B. Brief review of budget, end of year expenses.

1. *Discussion of public bid for tree planting for Spring 2010. PS plans on having a meeting this Friday Sept 11 with Joe Clementi and Eric Maurer if the date is available for all people. Projections of the end of year finances to also be discussed.*

2. *Was Brockhuizen Rd. tree emergency on private property or public property? This question is import in the issue of who will pay for the removal and clean up costs for the fallen tree. Should this be reimbursed by the property owner and not HSTC? PSL to investigate.*

C. Approval of July 2009 and August 2009 Meeting notes.

PS motion to approve July and August 2009 meeting notes, seconded DM, unanimous approval to accept these two months of meeting notes.

3. Old Business items.

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

1. 122 Washington Ave. LLC. New letter needed w/invoice for the removal of second tree. Completed, company paid invoice. *Mention only.*

2. 202 Tenth Ave.-Request for tree evaluation and action due to dropping branches condition. Letter dated 7/9/09. Response dated 8/16/09. *Mention only.*

3. 151 First Ave.-Tree removal request. Residents wrote Commission in correspondence dated 5/19/08 and on 7/10/09. Response dated 8/16/09. *Mention only.*

4. 34 Kenwood Ave.-Tree inspection and removal request. Letter dated 8/1/09. Borough Arborist indicated tree was to be removed. Response dated 8/16/09. *Mention only.*

5. 88 Mountain Ave.-Comments from resident regarding new plantings and concerns about tree maintenance for older trees. Letter dated 8/7/09. Response dated 8/31/09. *Mention only.*

6. 44 Tuxedo Ave.-Request to “whitewash” Borough trees in front of property. Letter dated 8/6/09. Discussion. *Mention only.*

B. General Borough planting planned for Spring '09. Species discussion and bid specification discussion.

PS – discussion of tree species, specifically the oaks. PA recommends avoiding red oaks until the issue of oak wilt becomes clearer, whether it comes to this area in the next couple years. Species chosen, final language for bid to be written, PSL has draft. Also make clear in bid that winner must have CTE on-site during all planting activities to oversee the planting. Spot checking not acceptable.

C. Ordinance Committee. Final language check still needed. Comments.
Mention only.

D. Enforcement follow up activities: Review list.

1. 45 Summit Ave. Burying of two Borough trees in planter. Follow up required.

PS to write letter to homeowner asking that planter be completely removed.

2. 9 Norma Terrace. Court date currently set for September 24, 2009 & October 1, 2009. Pieter handling case.

Mention only.

3. 259 Diamond Bridge Ave. Tree replaced by Borst. No further action needed.

Mention only.

4. 43 Minerva. Follow up still needed.

Warning letter needs to be written.

5. Insurance claim for trees knocked down on Lafayette Ave. Documents submitted to insurance company. Waiting for return call.

Mention only.

E. Cool Cities Planting Update. Fall'09 planting planning & schedule.
Discussion.

State Forester will come back soon to fix the locations.

Commissioners prefer that the State plant Lafayette. to Goffle Brook Park (east to west), and Van Winkle Ave. to Vreeland Ave.(north to south.)

F. Final Hawthorne Day planning.

PSL will send out an email with the final details.

4. New items

A. Enforcement cases. No new cases at this time.

Mention only.

B. Letters from residents. None at this time.

Mention only.

C. Public bid for Borough tree work results. Quality assurance/quality control, data and field inspection issues. Discussion.

Questions over data keeping, point of contact with winning bidder, quality control procedures are all concerns to the Commission for the contracted work. A meeting to discuss these matters with DPW and possibly Administration is recommended for the near future.

D. Patriot Development project, Goffle Rd. Discussion.

PS recommends pointing out that some tree species are not appropriate. The commission is extremely surprised that 107 trees and shrubs are being planned for such a large piece of property. The Commission is concerned that this project will be a 6.5 acre clear cut on one of the last remaining large forested tracts of land in the Borough. The applicant also does not appear to have followed Borough Ordinance Chapter 206-Tree Removal. A letter to the Zoning Board of Adjustment needs to be written to comment on the plans provided to the Commission.

E. Anything else?

DM motion to close, seconded by JT, unanimous approval to close the meeting.