

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13, 2009 MEETING

Present: Todd Bradbury, George Futterknecht, John Kashwick, Anthony Lupardi, Sr.,
Richard Ryan and Louise Ungar
Absent: Nils Abate and Susan Boudet
Guest: Leslie Weatherly and Ray Cywinski

Richard opened the meeting with the Public Meetings Statement. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of the March 9th meeting were approved as written. The Roll Call was taken.

Correspondence:

The New Jersey Tree Federation information about licensing of companies who do tree work will be addressed at the May meeting. We received a letter from the Arbor Day Foundation congratulating us for once again having achieved a Tree City USA designation. A press release to be used was enclosed.

Old Business:

Leslie reported on the trees on the list we distributed. The trees at 80 Hickory Lane will be tabled until next month. Two trees by the curb will be addressed.

Ray spoke about the removal of several trees at 290 Anderson Avenue. A new house is in the future at that address. On Homans and Anderson Avenues Ray noticed the trees that were planted appear to be about 12 feet from the sidewalk. He feels it will create a problem further down the road because of their location. He stated some towns have an additional easement to be able to plant further in on the property. On Herbert Avenue there is some concern about driveway visibility. He has reviewed the revised ordinance. It was noted that minutes should be taken at all meetings, but it is not necessary that they be posted on the Web site.

A joint meeting with the Land Use committee will be held on May 2nd.

Regarding the trees at Piermont and Closter Dock Roads, it is suggested these trees be taken down and new ones be planted.

Richard states plantings for Arbor Day were approved by the Superintendent of Schools. The times are 9:45 am at Hillside School and 11:00 am at Tenakill school. The date is April 23rd, with a rain date of April 24th.

Richard informs us fliers have been distributed in the schools for the April 25th Environmental Commission Tree Planting. Eighty trees will be supplied and plantings will take place in the area surrounding the David Scholz Bridge. Mulch and top soil will be provided by the Department of Public Works.

Richard has sent publicity about both the Shade Tree Commission and Environmental Commission to the newspapers. Copies of any articles printed should be kept to be included in our year end report.

Procurement of Door Hangers will be put on hold. Information on the benefits of trees and maintenance should be included.

The Mayor did not feel the appointment of Ted Sollod as an Alternate Member would be a “good fit” on the commission.

Members are asked to review the books with an eye to working on the Five-Year Community Forestry Management Plan. Five additional books should be purchased so each member of the commission can have one. M/S/C we purchase five copies of the Five-Year Community Forestry Management Plan.

It is felt maintenance and pruning standards should be developed. George will consult with Ray in working on this.

A “Shade Tree Policy – Talking Points and Ideas” list has been developed by Todd in consultation with George. Copies were distributed and comments were encouraged.

Should the right of way or a specific district from the group be used?

Should we either take trees down or not take trees down without considering the 10 feet right of way?

We are not consistent at this point, but we should be.

It is thought we have been taking down about thirty trees over the past few years. This will be discussed again at the next meeting prior to making a motion.

Cluster trees should not be considered as street trees.

George stated he and Joseph Bennett conducted the final tree inspection regarding the 2006 CSIP Grant. We failed the inspection, but the problems can be rectified.

New Business:

A question was raised regarding the specifications for new plantings. Should removal of the “basket” on new trees be included?

The homeowner at 150 Herbert Avenue complained about the location of the Zelcova planted at that address.

There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise G. Ungar
Secretary