

Minutes of October 11th, 2011 Meeting

Present: Nils Abate, Todd Bradbury, George Futterknecht, John Kashwick, Anthony Lupardi, Sr. and Louise Ungar, Members and Leslie Weatherly, Coordinator
Absent: Susan Boudet, Kathi Cochran and Adam Nock
Guest: Bill Fuchs, Ryan Hasko, Ryan Metz

Nils called the meeting to order with the Open Public Meetings statement and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the September 12th 2011 meeting were approved.

Meeting Opened to the Public

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Ryan Hasko presented background information on himself. He works at Flat Brook Park. He spoke about the work he has been doing for this Commission. Ryan surveyed some trees and rated each as, fair to good, moderate or poor.

It was stated Rockland Electric Company does some pruning and this commission contracts with private firms for the balance of pruning.

Ryan Hasko stated there were some impacts from home owners. Problems include soil compression, girdling and trunk damage. John Kashwick questioned were any "land mark trees" observed? It would be interesting to see the overall condition of the trees in a particular district. Street tree distance should be maintained all over town. Invasive trees were mentioned and should be monitored. We have tried to diversify the trees planted, especially under the wires. Suggestions for care of the trees are provided when the trees are planted. Volcanoes made with improper mulching are a problem. Pruning is done by bidding. Pin Oaks seem to do well in some areas.

In response to a question, Ryan Hasko stated he has not had any experience with trees planted in grates, and possibly impacting on sidewalks. Would planting smaller trees be helpful? Ryan Hasko will check into this matter. The data he has collected will be sent to Nils. Mr. Hasko was thanked for his attendance this evening.

In response to a question, Ryan Metz stated he has completed all tree maintenance work requested, including trees from 2008. Nils can supply additional information as needed. Mr. Metz was thanked for his attendance this evening.

Correspondence:

Closter Police reported a tree at 268 West Street interfering with the stop sign and requested it be removed. The resident at 14 Westervelt Street complained about a walnut tree on adjacent property and requested the tree be removed. The resident at 6 Cedar Lane requests the removal of a large, old Maple tree. Permission had been granted for the owner to take down the tree at their own expense. This tree will be checked again. The resident at 40 Columbus Drive requests trimming of branches. All requests will be addressed.

Old Business:

The Laptop has been received by Nils.

One bid was received for work on the grates in town. M/S/C the bid be accepted from K&S Fabrication & Welding, Bergenfield N.J. They will do eight grates at a cost of \$2,000.00

Regarding the Vossler Tract, now called Remembrance Park, George stated he has received information from Ryan Metz about possible grant money being available for the trees.

Leslie will have a new Take Down List by the November 2011 meeting. The bid for plantings has been awarded to the lowest bidder.

The volcano pamphlets were to be posted on the Borough web site.

George stated one of the Cherry trees in Pollock Square Park is having a problem and is under stress. He questioned if this tree could be raised.

Any further work by Ryan Metz will be subject to funds availability. After discussion, M/S/C the hours for Ryan Metz's work be increased to accommodate the 2010 plantings, based upon the available funds, not to exceed \$600.00

New Business:

Todd stated the trees at the A&P have Bacterial Leaf Scorch. This has been observed on other trees in town and further testing should be done. Todd expects the cost to be about \$200.00

Tony reports the tree at 4 Smith Court was inspected.

John stated the Tree City U.S.A information is due December 31st, 2011. The annual Accommodation Report is due February 15th, 2012.

There being no further business, M/S/C the meeting be closed.

Respectfully submitted,