



Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 11, 2023

8:00 p.m.

[held remotely via Zoom]

1. Call to Order—Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 pm

2. Roll Call

Commission Members present:

Nils Abate, Chairman

Todd Bradbury

Scott Devlin, Councilman

Miriam Lockhart

George Paschalis, Secretary

Dan Serata

Tsun Tam

3. Open Meeting to Public Comment

Mr. Dan Forman, 118 Venus Drive, reiterated concerns he raised with the Commission at the July 10th meeting regarding a street tree planted in 2014 in his front yard.

Mr. Bradbury recapped the Commission's efforts to date to address the Formans' concerns, including visiting with Mrs. Forman in July and pruning the tree in question. Mr. Bradbury and Mr. Forman agreed to a second meeting in the near future to find a mutually acceptable solution.

Julie Rosenberg, 87 Crescent Street, expressed her support for Mr. Forman's position, thoughts on the Spotted Lanternfly, and offered several opinions on matters that did not pertain to the Commission's work.

Pamela Zabitz, 96 Crescent Street, offered her ideas and information on ways to counter the Spotted Lanternfly.

4. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Lockhart, seconded by Mr. Serata, to approve the July 10, 2023 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Correspondence

Mr. Paschalis highlighted Mr. Winters' communications regarding the planting of trees at Ruckman Park. Mr. Bradbury offered to follow up with Mr. Oettinger relative to the type and location of trees.

6. Old Business

a) Spotted Lanternfly

Commission members discussed the various initiatives underway throughout the community. In response to Mr. Winter's August 16th email requesting opportunities to treat trees infested with Spotted Lanternfly, Chairman Abate will share a list of 17 Tree of Heaven locations within the Borough's right-of-way with Ms. Weatherly.

b) Completing tree inventory/dead tree removals

Chairman Abate and Mr. Bradbury noted their latest efforts on the inventory.

c) Enforcement of zones of protection

Councilman Devlin will discuss this issue at the next Building Department Committee meeting.

d) Synchronizing Approved Tree Lists

Councilman Devlin noted that this issue will be advanced at the next Council meeting.

7. New Business

a) Unauthorized pruning

Mr. Bradbury reviewed several properties that pruned street trees without authorization from the Commission. A motion was made by Ms. Lockhart, seconded by Mr. Paschalis, to issue the Commission's standard "do not prune" letters. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Moved street tree: 86 Wainwright Avenue

Mr. Bradbury noted a tree has been relocated from the location originally specified by the Commission. Mr. Paschalis will notify the Building Department.

c) 186 Harrington Avenue: water bags and root flare

Mr. Bradbury noted the homeowner has inquired about water bags for the trees he planted last year. Mr. Bradbury reminded the homeowner the trees still need their root flares to be exposed. Councilman Devlin will raise this with the Building Department, as they are responsible for enforcement.

d) Fall Foliage Photo Contest

Mr. Paschalis briefed members on plans to announce the 3rd annual contest and reviewed the draft flyer. Members were in agreement to move forward with the contest.

e) Mayor's Newsletter

Mr. Paschalis will draft a submission promoting the Fall Foliage Photo Contest.

f) 118 Venus Drive

The Commission further discussed the homeowner's concerns (outlined during the public comment portion of the meeting) and reviewed a photo of the tree in question.

g) Community Forestry Management Plan

Chairman Abate reminded members this five-year plan, originally set to expire this year, has been extended to December 31, 2024. The Commission must have a new plan in place and approved by this date. This expenditure should be reflected in next year's budget.

Mr. Paschalis reminded members a draft Request for Proposals had been circulated last year; he will recirculate in advance of the next meeting.

h) Transitioning to utilizing Tree Plotter features

Mr. Bradbury noted templates are available to capture items such as inspections, tree removals, etc. Members discussed planning a quick tutorial for those interested in participating.

8. Reports

a) Shade Tree Budget Report—*received*

b) Shade Tree Trust Fund Report—*received*

c) Governing Body—Councilman Devlin reminded members of the upcoming Spotted Lanternfly meeting.

d) Environmental Commission— Councilman Devlin provided an update on the activities of the Commission.

9. Inspections/Plan Reviews

Members discussed various reviews.

10. Meeting Adjournment (approximately 9:45 p.m.)