

Borough of Phoenixville Shade Tree Commission Meeting Agenda/Minutes May 10, 2010

Start Time: 6:44 PM

End Time: 8:48 PM

Attendance: Commissioners: Paul Kusko, Joan McCracken, Commissioner Elect, Randal Morin. Staff Liaison: Melissa Gibbons, Director Parks & Recreation. Volunteers: John Westerman arriving at 7:23 PM.

Public Comment: Jeffery Shannon, 425 Carlisle: Inquired on the status of the removal of the dead tree in front of his house. The Commission noted it is listed for removal in 2010. The Commission was not able to state when.

Guest Resource:

None scheduled

Minutes Review: Meeting of April 12, 2010: Minutes were accepted as presented.

Shade Tree Service Requests:

See Attached Inspection List. The Commission inspected trees and made recommendations on 13 requests for service received since the first of the year. The commission also inspected and made recommendations on 20 trees that were deferred from the 4th quarter of 2009. Response forms will be mailed to the residents concerned.

Phone/email requests: Mr. Kusko reported that he responded to 11 email & phone requests from residents during the past month. Most were people were already listed for service.

Follow-ups:

Completed work orders: Ms. Gibbons submitted reports indicating work was done on 14 street trees and 15 Reeves Park trees during the month of April.

Tree Service List. Mr. Kusko reported that the 224 Trees were currently listed from previous years and that the list would be updated to accommodate the new reports.

Tree service schedule: work schedule and procedure. Ms. Gibbons reported that the tree contractor was coming in a few days weekly and that he was doing the streets in alpha order. It was recommended that the contractor be given the freedom to work areas where groups of trees on the list were identified regardless of the alpha order of streets.

Plantings:

- ❖ **Street Side & Friendship Field:** 2010 PennVest Grant – (Kusko)
 - Phase I: April 14, 2010 Community Service Day planting: Mr. Kusko reported that Phase I planting went very well. Select students from Valley Forge Christian College planted 80 bare root trees on April 14th.
 - Phase II: Farmers Market Trail & Franklin Commons:
 - Planting date: 4th week in May
 - Phase III: Reeves Park:
 - Planting date: The week following Dogwood carnival.

Violations: None reported

Old Business:

- 1) **Budget/Policy Direction for 2010:** Ms. Gibbons distributed budget reports to date. Only \$850.00 in contractor services has been spent to date.
- 2) **2010 response letter to residents:** Mr. Kusko reported that the Commission finally received the revised response letter from the Borough staff. He reported that it is the identical letter to the original letter submitted to the Commission in March and that it appears that none of the recommendations made by the Commission were taken into consideration. Hence in 5 months we still have no response to present to the residents relative to the Boroughs 2010 tree policy – not to accept new requests. The Commission’s position on this is clear; the letter infers that regulated tree maintenance is now the responsibility of the property owner. If the Borough chooses this particular response, the Commission wants it to be printed on Borough letter head and not on Tree Commission letterhead. Mr. Kusko is to send a letter to the Borough Manager stating the Commission’s position.
- 3) **Reeves Park Tree Protection –Dogwood Fest:** Ms. Gibbons reported that the Borough is trying to exert more controls over the placement of rides and vehicle’s in the park. Trucks are to be parked off site.
- 4) **Web site update:** Mr. Kusko reported that 8 months after the Commission being told to submit minutes for posting on the borough web site. Not a single report has been posted by the Borough.
- 5) **Commission Terms:** Mr. Morin said he received a notification that he was being appointed to fill the vacancy on the Tree Commission. It was unknown if Council affirmed that appointment.
- 6) **Pruning Workshop, Tuesday, May 11, 2010:** Mr. Kusko reported that an arborist from Morris Arboretum was going to conduct a tree pruning training workshop for borough workers. The objective is for borough workers to be able to prune low limbs correctly.
- 7) **GIS Work shop: Wednesday, May 12, 2010:** Mr. Kusko reported that he would be attending the workshop.
- 8) **PennVest Grant 20 11:** No action to date.

New Business:

- 1) No New business was presented to the Commission
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)