

THE HOBOKEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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DAWN ZIMMER
 Mayor



James J. Tricarico, Chairman
 Peter Bakarich, III, Commissioner
 Matt Condon, Commissioner
 Peter Cossio, Commissioner
 Diana Davis, Commissioner
 Amy Sommer, 1st Alternate

Minutes of the October 13, 2015 Shade Tree Commission Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Chairman called out names of those present.

<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u>	
Chairman James Tricarico	✓
Commissioner Peter Bakarich	✓
Commissioner Matt Condon	✓
Commissioner Peter Cossio	✓
Commissioner Diana Davis	✓
1 st Alternate, Amy Sommer	✓

Also Present: Christopher Brown, Designee for Environmental Services; Daisy Amado, secretary; and John Miller, Esq. of Weiner Lesniak filling in for Ronald Cucchiaro who will be the attorney for the commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the May 11, June 8, August 10 and September 14th meetings.

Move to approve the minutes.

COMMISSION MEMBER	Move	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Chairman Tricarico	✓		✓			
Commissioner Bakarich			✓			
Commissioner Condon		✓	✓			
Commissioner Cossio			✓			
Commissioner Davis			✓			
1 st Alternate, Amy Sommer						

Members of the public appearing before the Commission

1. John McDonald, Esq., his client Tom Carmen, and Antonio Aiello, Architect regarding 502 Madison. Mr. McDonald read a portion from a letter he received from engineer. Commissioner Cossio stated he will write a letter to the engineer, Andy Hipolit of Maser, and will email a copy to Mr. McDonald in connection to project number: MC HOP-186. Commissioner Cossio mentioned he would update letter and address rail guards within the same letter.

2. John Gregorio regarding dead tree on 1st and Jackson; had asked for it to be replaced and would pay the \$100 cost, however because the tree is not on his property (on the church's property), he was denied and advised to appear before the commission to plead his case. Chairman asked Mr. Gregorio for his phone number. Commissioner Cossio did explain that Steve denies the request if you are not the actual property owner. Chairman advised that commission will try to make Mr. Gregorio in charge instead of the church; perhaps we can have volunteers do it.

3. Peggy McGeary regarding Washington Street trees. Chairman advised that the Washington Street project, streets between 1st and 3rd are completed and dead trees have been identified. Between 3rd and 5th Streets those trees are part of the project and are being prepared right now. Ms. McGeary expressed her concern over the 'exodus' of trees between 6th & 7th and one perfect tree with an X on it in front of Rebongi and Seboria restaurants between 5th & 6th.

4. Cheryl Fallack regarding Washington Street trees, said it's 'actually criminal if the tree in front of Seboria comes down.' Ms. Fallack said she equates trees with animals and people, even if their dying they are living things. Commissioner Condon advised that the commission is not here to cut down healthy trees. Chairman asked Cheryl Fallack to send him a list and we can go through everything and gave her his card. Ms. Fallack stated she understands the idea of the beautiful canopy, but not getting rid of healthy trees. Commissioner Condon supplied her with his email address.

5. Michelle Parada of 1025 Willow regarding the parking lot on 11th and Willow, believes it is a city-owned lot. There is an issue with garbage accumulation; we should try to make it look aesthetically beautiful and there is a potential to plant trees. Ms. Parada said she would volunteer to water. Chairman advised he will see if he can start a group, maybe an internal and external group.

6. Peggy McGeary spoke again regarding area around trees not being maintained, around City Hall and throughout the City; asked the commission who is responsible for this. Commissioner Cossio advised the Department of Environmental Services is responsible for maintaining the trees around City Hall and the property owners for their own trees and advised Ms. McGeary to contact her city council representative about changing the ordinance. 1st Alternate, Amy Sommer also advised Ms. McGeary she can report on the City's 311 system especially if it is a liability.

7. John Gregorio spoke again in connection to the trees around the Multi Service Center and the roller rink. Commissioner Cossio advised that the trees around the Multi Service Center are "Leo's project." Per Mr. Gregorio in front of the roller rink there are bigger trees and we need less.

8. Dan Tumpson regarding cutting down trees with white Xs on them, specifically: 502, 518, 401 and 326. Commissioner Condon went over the status of each tree.

AGENDA

1. **Washington Street Project, Blocks 4 and 5** – Commissioner Condon discussed red maples and how this is a bad place for them. Cheryl Fallack posts on Facebook. Proposed removal as these are in a bad location and the water, gas have been dug through pit already. Commissioner Cossio mentioned we should vote to remove it. Commissioner Condon explained how tree will be off center with the utilities inside of pit already. Commissioner Condon shared he

attended pre-construction meeting also noticed a few typos on contract and a few new trees left off. On RFP the 300 and 400 blocks were added but not the 500 block. He spoke with Director Pellegrini who advised the City will process as a change order.

2. **Citizen & City Pruning Schedule** – Per Amy Sommer, Chairman should follow-up with Director Pellegrini. Chairman made notes in connection to purchase order for consultant and the tree pit training.

3. **Planting site data to submit to the City/Fall Planting status of Tree List** - Chairman inquired whether the City has all the addresses. Commissioner Cossio stated that he and Steve are working to fill 85 trees. They have been marking up tree pits so they can complete at full capacity. Commissioner also mentioned how cooperative David Calamoneri has been and responsive with coordinating, doing a good job. Commissioner Cossio will email a list of all pits that are done to the Commissioners. Forty trees so far. 1st Alternate, Amy Sommer inquired who is inspecting the trees once they have been planted and whether we have a punch list. Chairman stated he would send an email to Director Pellegrini in connection to punch list.

4. **CSIP Grant Hazardous Tree Pruning Grant** – “Parks vs. anywhere else grant.” Chairman mentioned email regarding hazardous trees; list of dead trees (733 Park) what is status as it is to be removed this year. Chairman will send Director Pellegrini and Chris Brown a list of dead trees.

5. **Louis Barbato** - per Chris Brown the vendor has been responsive with the specs and trees are coming out and new ones going in. Chairman mentioned a lot of calls about 400 Clinton. Chris advised Barbato should be coming back to remedy the week of October 18th.

6. **Shade Tree Commission Annual Meeting** – Chairman and 1st Alternate Amy Sommer will be attending. Chairman asked if any of the Commissioners have any questions just to email either one of them.

7. **Island on 11th Street Trees** - Chairman said he needs to add this to the list of dead trees he will be forwarding to Director Pellegrini.

8. **Tree Trimming Seminar with Mike Lamana of Heartwood Ecological Consulting** – Chairman asked if Chris Brown could follow-up with David Calamoneri on whether there is a purchase order for this. Discussion about PSE&G trust and Chairman to send to Commissioner Davis who requested same, however we went over the budget at a previous meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Commissioner Bakarich will reach out to Stevens see if they want to do volunteer work.
- All construction plans submitted to the Shade Tree Commission are up to date.
- Chairman welcomed John Miller, Esq. who filled in for Ron Cucchiaro who will be the attorney for the commission. Mr. Miller introduced himself to the commission and advised the attorney is here for a resource for the commission. Reminded the commission that they serve as an advisory board. If something comes up with more of a legal situation, the commission should turn to the attorney. Mr. Miller also reminded the commission of the

Open Public Meeting Act and how the commission is subject to all provisions of same. He further advised how we are entitled to executive or closed sessions and how no formal action may be taken at same. Discussion also ensued of how an Open Public Meeting Act statement should be read at the beginning of each meeting. Secretary provided a Statement to the Chairman to be read at meetings from now on. Chairman discussed how commission has ordinances on books that they have been trying to revise for years and the need for assistance with amending these; Chairman stated he will send prior to the next meeting. Secretary to prepare sign-in sheet for members of the public with a five minute speaking limit.

Commissioner Davis discussed the Green Communities Grant. Chris Brown mentioned how the last time we discuss this item, the Chairman had given the grant to the Mayor's office for signature. This was passed on the last council meeting. Chairman said he would send this over to Commissioner Davis. Commissioner Davis said she needs to submit remaining paperwork to finalize this grant.

Meeting concluded at 8:59 p.m.

(Minutes taken/submitted by D. Amado)