



City of Hoboken, Shade Tree Commission

Amy Sommer Matthew Condon Peter Cossio Diana Davis James J. Tricarico

Minutes

Tuesday November 17, 2015

7:00 pm

1. Roll call

a. Present - Condon, Davis, Tricarico, Bakarich, Sommer

b. Also Present – John Miller, Chris Brown, Janice Levine, Gary Galsworth

2. Approval of August Minutes

The minutes for October, 2015 were approved.

Commissioner and Public 1 minute statements

Discussion of Tree Topic from the public:

Janice Levine 206 Newark & Gary Galsworth 210 Newark street made a case to remove & replace 2 mature Honey locust trees in front of the respective buildings that they own at that location. They made the arguments that the larger trees are more costly to trim, have broken up their sidewalk which requires repairs, were the wrong species for a street tree and that they would pay to have the trees removed & replaced. The commissioners gave comments on the matter mostly leaning towards the fact that permits are not warranted to remove healthy trees. Legal Counsel, Mr. Miller commented that the Commissions powers only allow them to deem a tree as a “danger to the public” in which case they could recommend to the City that the ordinance be enforced to have the resident remove the street tree. Mr. Miller recommended the Commissioners individually inspect the trees and report back at the December 14th meeting where a vote would be called to determine if the trees are considered a danger to the public.

Old Business

- *Washington Street Tree* (Condon)

Commissioner Condon updated the meeting that there had not been progress on the work between blocks 4 & 5 in the last 3 weeks. He mentioned that dead trees within that work zone have yet to be removed and thusly the new trees scheduled to be planted are not yet planted. Commissioner Sommer said that she had e-mailed a punch list of open work items to Director Pellegrini within the Month but had not heard back. Both Commissioners expressed concern that the planting season is nearing an end and that the final job should be well reviewed by a city inspector and reconciled to the details in the bid specification. It was also noted that none of the iron work for the project has been installed yet. Mr. Brown relayed that the Contractor for the work Pat Scanlon had let the City know that they would be back on the job Monday, November 23rd.

- *Status: Completion of 2014 Louis Barbato Inc. Resident Street Planting*

Commissioners were eager to know when Barbato would be removing the dead trees that were planted in January of 2015, replant trees at those sites and enlarge the tree pits of all the trees as set forth in the spec. Commissioner Davis sited e-mails where both the City & Commission were told all the remedying work

would be done in September of 2015. Mr. Brown relayed that Barbato had let the City know that they would be back on the job Monday, November 23rd. They also said that they would remedy all the work in one day. The Commission estimates the number of trees that need to be removed and new trees replanted to be 28. Commissioner Tricarico sited residents who participated in the 2014 planting who are complaining that they received a dead tree while neighbors in the 2015 program have already received their healthy tree. He recommended a formal letter/e-mail be sent to these residents affected to keep them informed and to assure them of the City's commitment to complete the work.

In discussions with Mr. Miller, it was decided that he would look into the contractual matters further by initiating conversation with the City. A pivotal questions that need to be answered are: "When can the City refuse Barbato from fixing his contractual mistakes? Is there a cost benefit of suing Barbato?"

- Community Forestry Plan Grant with NJ State Forestry Services

Commissioner Tricarico mailed the final grant documents back to Patricia Shapella at the NJ State Forestry Services division of the NJ EPA on November 9th. The final documents had the Mayor's signature, all the appropriate City Council votes and signature & seal from the City Clerk's office. It was determined that the pdf copy sent to Commissioner Davis was not delivered because the file was too big. Commissioner Davis said she would follow up with the other documents that need to be submitted, like a volunteer hours log.

- Status on \$20,000 CSIP tree pruning grant

Discussion of this grant was presented by Commissioners Tricarico & Davis who both concluded that the grant was awarded to the Shade Tree Commission in August of 2013 but that the City has deemed that it be put towards park projects only. Mr. Miller agreed to review all grant documents and report back to Commission.

- Call to fill open Commission seat

J. Tricarico lead discussion on this matter.

- Commission discussed open bills.

J. Tricarico informed Commission and C. Brown that A. Sommer is due a reimbursement for the Shade Tree Conference and the Dues for the NJ Shade Tree Federation have not been paid for 2014 or 2015. All the details of these matters were most recently e-mailed to Director Pellegrini over 45 days ago.

- Meeting concluded at approx. 9 p.m.

-Meeting with Director Pellegrini to Discuss Budget Allocation & Washington Street Maintenance
(Condon)

Condon and Calamoneri met with Director Pellegrini to discuss the budget. Director Pellegrini approves of the STC budget including the CSIP Grant pruning, which will take place in the fall 2014. Calamoneri will confirm the priority one prunes as well as the priority two. Trees that need to be pruned will also be assessed after PSE&G completes their pruning since some of these trees could have been pruned by PSE&G.

There will be funding to support Washington Street and residential plantings. Director Pellegrini agreed to the following watering schedule of Thursdays and Sundays for Washington Street plantings. Watering will begin May 15th.

Director Pellegrini would like to use part of the STC budget to support the community garden on 3rd St and Jackson St. The STC is in support of the community garden, but does not believe this is the proper use of the STC budget, which is for activities that involve street trees. The STC would like to plant trees along the street in front of the community garden according to the requirements of the TD Grant.

5. Adjournment

Meetings held in City Hall basement conference room across from the municipal violations window.