

**BOROUGH OF HO-HO-KUS
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING
August 4, 2014**

Minutes

I. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Commissioner Grieder was absent. Commissioner Chris Raimondi was acting chair.

The open public meeting statement was read and the meeting was called to order at 2:32 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Raimondi, Pavelski, and Chase. Commissioners Grieder and Mitchell were absent. Also present was Susan Greig, secretary, and Mr. Steve Steiner, borough resident.

The usual order of business was suspended to accommodate Mr. Steiner.

453 Birch Lane- 201-447-3616- Steve Steiner reported that the Norway maple tree in front of his property is almost dead. The town tree is about 8 feet from property line of the curb. A Commissioner will look at property after the meeting. Mr. Steiner was told that in the late fall or winter it would be pruned or removed as needed. A note will be sent to Mr. Steiner after the September meeting. We will need to check for wires in case the tree is a PSE&G issue. Mr. Steiner also noted to the Commission that he would like to be added to the planting list and he would like a replacement tree. Perhaps a cherry could be planted, but he does not want a new Norway maple. The resident will mark the spot where he thinks the new tree would go so the Commissioners can check for placement when they visit home after the meeting.

III. MINUTES

Commissioner Pavelski made a motion to accept the minutes as read. It was seconded by Commissioner Chase and they voted all in favor.

Laura Borchers, Borough Clerk, came to the meeting telling the Commissioners she had just received a phone call from Karen Piatti of **11 Timberline Road** who had phoned to tell the borough that a resident behind her was cutting trees behind their house. Commissioner Raimondi told Laura that the Shade Tree Commission only deals with borough trees. Trees located in resident's backyards are the homeowner's responsibility unless the trees border state or county property. In that case Mrs. Piatti should phone the Department of Public Works for either of the state or county to report the tree removals.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

- A.** We received a bill from Ramapo Tree for emergency work done at **7 Blanchfield Court**.

This is covered under Item N under old business.

- B. 1 Beechwood Road-** Julie & Dan Morris- Letter requesting new shade trees.

Commissioner Raimondi will go and speak to the homeowners since they are new neighbors on his block.

- C. 103 First Street-** Aileen Mastin- Letter concerning tree with ants she wants removed and reimbursement of homeowners insurance for tree that fell and hit her house.

The Commissioners will look at the tree after the meeting and report in September.

- D. 225 Hollywood Avenue-** Mrs. Ahluwalia- W received a letter informing the Commission that a tree in front of her home has a hanging branch in it that needs removing.

The Commissioners will look at the tree after the meeting and report in September.

- E. 3 Gordon Road-**Mr. Maddison-Town tree in front of his home needs pruning. Branches keep falling on his home. (Phone message to Joanne McDonald 7/23/14)

Commissioner Raimondi looked at the tree and it is being put on the trim list several dead branches on this sugar maple. A letter will be sent to the resident. Remove from the agenda after the letter is sent.

Also: add **1 Gordon Road** (sugar maple) to removal list. It is almost totally dead. A letter will be sent to the resident. Remove from agenda after letter is sent.

- F. 525 Sherwood Road-** William Kobb-Two trees planted in 2013.

Commissioners Pavelski and Chase are to visit with the homeowner. His intention is to plant in the same spot where a previous tree had died. This may not be possible. The Commissioners will check area for planting sites.

- G. 215 Brookside Ave.-**Rick Burke-His letter received 7-24-14 about two trees in the town line hitting his roof. Call him and he will meet a Commissioner to discuss the trimming. (201-264-1378)

Commissioner Chase will look at the tree(s) after the meeting.

- H. 50 Ardmore Road, corner of Sargeant Road-** Melissa Dyki-Letter dated July 7, 2014, please inspect tree for damage and clean up of loose/dead limbs. They are a danger to people below.

This tree has been looked at it will be added to our trim list for this year. A letter will be sent to the homeowner. After the letter is sent we will remove this from our agenda.

- I. 52 Fairlawn Street-**Sean Tynan-(917-244-1882) Resident is requesting 1 to 2 shade trees to be planted on Blauvelt Ave near #406. This request is made on his neighbor's behalf. The neighbor did not request any trees.

The Commissioners will look at the area and report at the September meeting.

J. 11 Brownstone Way-Glen Bianchi-When will dead tree be removed?

Commissioner Raimondi noted that this tree was looked at in the past and has already been added to this year's removal list. We will resend our original letter, perhaps the resident didn't get it.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Pamphlet to insert into business department packages for people adding additions or building new homes within the borough.

No action at this time.

B. Green Community's Grant 2011

No action pending states response.

C. New Ordinance- Memo to the Mayor-Who will do fee collection?

No action at this time.

D. 339 Wearimus Road -Permit issued by C. Mitchell. Anticipate early spring finish. Planting letter sent 4-22-14. They need to plant one tree

No action at this time. Commissioner Mitchell hasn't reported she is on vacation.

E. Shade Tree Site Plan Ordinance revisions-

Commissioner Raimondi will check with the Mayor to see where the revisions are.

F. Borough Web Site for Shade Tree Commission

The web site is moving along nicely. Ruthanne Frank is the new webmaster. A photo of all of the members will be taken and put on the website. We are in charge of information and content but Ruthanne will post for us. One suggestion for our site is a frequently asked category.

G. Arbor Day-A location has to be determined for a tree planting so that Sue can have Arbor Day put in the newspaper. Also a tree needs to be purchased.

Commissioner Raimondi will purchase a tree and it will be planted at memorial park on Monday, October 6, 2014 at 3:30 P.M.

H. The Hollows-

A second report/revision was submitted on July 29, 2014.

I. 6 Brookview Court- Ramapo Tree is to plant trees. This will be left on the agenda one more month if there is no further action we will remove this from the agenda in August.

No action. We will leave on our agenda until September.

- J. 841 Bernard Place-** Dawn Giacchi (dmgiacchi@optonline.net)- Commissioner Raimondi stopped the work. The resident was phoned and told to get the permit at the borough hall.

No permit was obtained. This can be removed from the agenda.

- K.** Tree replacement for last years trees that died.

Danny brought a list of 21 pin oaks to Chairman Grieder's home. There are two addresses that we are still missing.

- L.** Drafted letters by Commissioner Pavelski.

July 18th letters went out to all residents who received new trees last year, asking them to please water the new trees. This can be removed from the agenda.

- M. 258 Ackerman Avenue-**Mrs. McGail-Permit was Okayed for tree removal.

This can be removed from the agenda the stump has been ground.

- N. 7 Blanchfield Court-**Emergency tree removal

There is some question concerning who ground/removed the stump at this location. Was it was ground by Ramapo Tree company or our DPW. Chairman Grieder had asked Superintendent Pattman if his men could pull the stump. We need to resolve this to pay the bill. Chris will check with Jeff Pattman. This can be removed from agenda.

- O.** Drafted letters by Commissioner Pavelski.

This item was listed twice on the agenda in error.

- P. 258 Ackerman Avenue-**Mrs. McGail-Permit Ok's by Commissioner Raimondi to remove a declining town tree that could not be pruned of deadwood. The tree would be unbalanced if the pruning of dead wood were done. **Stump?**

This item was listed twice on the agenda in error.

VI. NEW BUSINESS/ PERMITS

- A.** The New Jersey Shade Tree Federation's 89th Annual Conference will be held on Oct 24th; & 25th in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

The Commissioners will decide who will attend.

- B.** William Kobb-525 Sherwood Road-He wants 2 trees.

Commissioners Chase and Pavelski will visit him. The intention is to plant the two new trees in the same spot that the two trees from last year died. If this is done we will not have to pay for the

root balls to be removed. The old root balls would be dug up and removed when the two new trees are planted.

- C. The Honey locust trees were trimmed at **ECLC School** without getting Shade Tree permission.

Commissioner Pavelski will advise ECLC (by visiting and letter form) that there is a process for trimming trees on town property. They (the trees) are borough property and should not be pruned unless a permit is obtained and a certified tree expert is hired. There are significant fines for pruning without permission.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted by:

Susan Kievit Greig