

**BOROUGH OF HO-HO-KUS
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING
March 10, 2014**

Minutes

I. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

The open public meeting statement was read and the meeting was called to order at 2:38 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Grieder, Raimondi, Mitchell, Pavelski, and Chase. Also attending were Sue Greig, secretary, and William Comery, Licensed tree expert.

III. MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell to accept the minutes for the February meeting as read. It was seconded and they voted all in favor.

At this time the meeting was suspended to hear Bill Comery. Bill was asked by Commissioner Grieder to speak about what the Commission would need to do to have a required street tree planting deposit in place. The deposit would pertain to properties demolishing homes for rebuilds; and possibly homes adding extensions and /or renovations over a certain percentage of the building (percentage to be determined).

“The first thing, Bill noted, is the Municipal land use site plan ordinance typically has the requirement for a street tree deposit for new development. That is in place by state statute 40:55D-38(3). Ho-Ho-Kus currently has none in their land use site plan ordinance so that would have to be put into place by your governing body, borough attorney, and or the planning board.”

“So you would have to have a new plan use put into effect.”

He also gave the Commissioners suggestions to format a formal proposal which would include areas this Commission was most concerned with. They are as follows.

The formal proposal may include Municipal subdivision and site plan ordinance changes, wording for the street tree planting requirement, street tree planting deposit (amount), introductory language if needed or required, new homes, vacant properties in all zones and demolished homes, Shade Tree Commission policy changes, and an estimate for street tree planting deposit form.

A question of payment collection arose. “Payments, if the street tree planting deposit is put into use are by law collected by the clerk,” Bill noted.

He also added, “On the day I was researching this project I was introduced to the Chairman of the Planning board, John Hanlon, by Don Cirulli (Borough Administrator), I explained what I was researching and John thought having a tree deposit was a good idea. He would welcome this change.”

We will recommend adding a street tree planting deposit into the Borough Ordinances to the Mayor and Council, and possibly a change to our ordinance to require each property to have one or two trees within the right of way when there is a demolition. One tree 2 to 2 1/2 in caliper charged \$ 375.00 as determined by the state.

Bill Comery said, as he left the meeting, “if anyone including the Mayor and Council, or borough attorney has questions about his recommendations they could call him.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Raimondi to accept the proposed street tree planting deposit be put forth to the governing body for addition to the Towns ordinances. It was seconded and they voted all in favor.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

A. 242 Elmwood Avenue-Marc Chacon-New tree planted in the fall was put in front of his front door, not placed where our original mark-out is. Resident suggested planting a new tree or moving the newly planted tree.

The Commissioner discussed and agreed to plant a new tree where it was originally suppose to go and was marked out for planting. A letter will be sent to the resident informing them of a fall planting, budget permitting. This will be removed from the agenda after the address is added to the fall planting list.

V. OLD BUSINESS

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

Progress. If ordinance passes it will make it easier to move forward with this.

At this time the Commission reviewed plans for the expansion of St. Luke’s Cemetary. Some of the plantings suggested are not appropriate along Franklin Turnpike due to the large amount of salt that is put down along the County Road

B. Green Community’s Grant 2011- Kim Mitchell has to call Alex McCarthy

No action this month. The secretary did not find a copy of the grant application in her book. Commissioner Mitchell will check with the borough hall master file. The grant writer may have kept it.

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

No action this month.

D. Lloyd Road- Ho-Ho-Kus Public School letter to Deborah Ferraro.

NOTE: The meeting is scheduled for March 4th at 9:00 AM. Chris & Kim will attend.

E. Fall Tree Removal List-Ramapo Tree Service

This is on hold until the snow melts and we can check for stump removals.

- F. 160 Wearimus Road-** Commissioner Raimondi will check if this can be added to the removal quote. We need to obtain two more price quotes.

We have to add this to the fall list for this year.

G. Hazardous tree identification class

The class was very information and it was suggested that Commissioner Grieder may want to attend at a future date.

- H. 339 Wearimus Road** -Permit issued by C. Mitchell. Anticipate early spring finish. This is on hold till spring of 2014.

This is still on hold.

- I. 45 Ardmore Road-** Scott & Susan Kelly-201-444-4846- Two trees removed. This is on hold till spring of 2014.

This is still on hold.

- J. 422 Ardmore Road-**Mrs. Smith- New tree not planted in correct spot. What is our course of action? Commissioner Raimondi will ask Bill Comery to see if they can come back and replant it. If not, we will ask the DPW to move the tree to the marked location.

The Ho-Ho-Kus DPW will be asked to move this in the spring to a different location on the property.

- K. 327 Racetrack Road-**Steve & Barbara Milone-201-445-5310. Don't want trees where they are planted. Commissioner Mitchell is to compose a letter to resident.

Commissioner Mitchell will check if she has the check. Either she or Pat will send the check and letter back to the resident.

- L. 10 Stone Ridge Lane-** Resident phoned. He still has two stumps. When will they be removed? Ramapo Tree is authorized to do the work.

This site will be added to our list for fall planting. We can't tell if stump was removed due to snow.

- M. Community Forestry Management Plan** due February 15, 2014

This plan has been completed and sent. It can be removed from the agenda.

- N. 88 Franklin Turnpike-**A sign was nailed into one of our shade trees. The tree is leaning. (Memo to Dan McEldownery on 2/28/14)

This is on hold waiting for the maintenance official to report back.

- O. Shade Tree Ordinance-New Construction**

This was discussed previously under minutes heading.

P. Budget.

The budget has been presented but not finalized by the borough. This can be removed from our agenda.

Q. Borough Web Site for Shade Tree Commission. (Updating)

Progress.

VII. NEW BUSINESS/ PERMITS

- A.** A form was sent to the Commission by N. J. Tree Recovery announcing that we could have 2000 seedlings for free. It was decided to not accept the offer. The Commission did not have an appropriate storage area for the seedlings.
- B.** Valley Forge and Sleepy Hollow possible dead tree reported by Mrs. Reilly. Mrs. Reilly will be given the PSEG phone number to call in dead trees within power lines.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted by:

Susan Kievit Greig

ARBOR DAY SHOULD BE PUT ON APRIL AGENDA.