

**BOROUGH OF HO-HO-KUS
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2015**

MEETING

I. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 P.M. after the open public meeting statement was read.

II. ROLL CALL

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Grieder, Raimondi, Chase, Pavelski and Mitchell. Sue Greig, secretary was absent. Mayor Tom Randall attended as a guest at request of Commissioner Pavelski.

The regular order of business was suspended so that the Commission could speak with Mayor Randall.

The Commissioners thanked Mayor Randall for coming to the meeting and explained that they felt that all of their issues could be boiled down to two items:

1. Budget
2. Liaison from the Town Council

The Commission felt that Steve Shell would be a good fit. He has a background in forestry. The Commission would like to make the Council aware of issues as they arise, and have help in finding solutions immediately to problems. The Commission would be willing to be flexible and change their meeting day and time if they need to.

Regarding the budget, they would like to:

1. Increase our budget
2. Possibly by having us (this Commission) generate more revenue
3. User tax-have a certified arborist do work

Frank Grieder: Last year , Chris Raimondi and Dannie Chase developed a list of trees that required attention. Joe Citro, Chief Financial Officer, only gave us the money for the worst take downs (the # 1's on our removal/trim list). No money was given for pruning of mature trees. We have planted 450 trees and we need to prune them while they are still small.

Mayor Tom Randall: DPW used to handle trimming small trees. Now they no longer have the manpower. Important when going into the budget meetings is to have a plan that they can understand. It is hard to arrive at a number.

Chris Raimondi: The addition of two new members has helped us with our workload.

Pat Pavelski: Over the course of the upcoming year, are you under pressure from other groups?

Mayor Tom Randall: Eighty-five percent of our budget is tied up in non flexible expenses like police salaries.

Frank Grieder: Are trees a capital item? They last more than five ears.

Mayor Tom Randall: We try to respond when people say that they need more money.

Chris Raimondi: In summary, \$ 10,000.00 is not enough. The minimum we need is \$35, 000.00. Optimally, we would like \$50,000-\$60,000 to catch up on items that we have had to put off.

Mayor Tom Randall: In November, we do the transfers of unused funds to other departments. Not sure what we can get.

Pat Pavelski: We all have the same goal in mind; to keep the town looking nice.

Chris Raimondi: An emergency tree removal on Garden Court, cost \$3,000.00, which was a third of our budget in 2014.

Pat Pavelski: The inclusion of Steve Shell will help tremendously. So would updating the Land Use Ordinance. Land Use Development so we can collect funds.

Frank Grieder: School required Shade Tree Work. They took down some big trees on Lloyd. We would like to put their work into our contract to lower the overall cost of the contract, and have them reimburse us.

Items we would love to see addressed:

1. Budget
2. Liaison form the Town Council
3. Fees and Permits
4. Involvement in the proposed design of the little park and repair of the stone wall by the library
5. Shade Tree Ordinance revision we had Bill Comery work on.

At this point, Mayor Randall left the meeting and we resumed with our regular agenda.

III. MINUTES

The January minutes were not voted on this week.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

There wasn't any new correspondence from residents to report on in January.

PSE&G gave us notice that they are trimming trees in town and they asked to come to today's meeting, but they were not in attendance.

There are still stalks near 1031 East Saddle River Road under the wires that need removing.

V. OLD BUSINESS

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

There is nothing new to report at this time.

- B. **Green Community's Grant 2011**

We received a check for the 2011 money.

We will need to check with Paul Cowie's office about when we need to apply for 2015 Green Communities Grant money.

- C. **New Ordinance**-Who will do fee collection? (Memo to Mayor)
A copy was given to the Mayor and Don Cirulli by Commissioner Raimondi.

This was covered earlier.

- D. **Budget letter to Mayor**

This item was covered earlier.

- E. **Borough Web Site for Shade Tree Commission**

Dannie has done some work in the site. He wants to include The Mission of the Shade Tree Commission, member bios, and a frequently asked questions section. The Commissioner will look at other websites for ideas, Such as River Edge, Jackson and Westwood.

- F. **Post Cards to residents**

There is nothing new to report at this time.

- G. **Normandy Court-**

Has the developer paid money to the town yet?

- H. **The Hollows-**

Dannie would like to see the edge along Hollywood Avenue remain as it is.

- I. **Bellezza-** Letter that they need to get a permit was mailed on 12-9-14 (STC). Don Cirulli, the Borough Administrator will write a letter to Allan Bellezza Contracting, L.L.C. The Inn is a commercial business and therefore a permit is required.

Update: Don Cirulli sent Gordon Hamm a note regarding the lights on the trees. The permit fee is waved for residences of volunteers, not for businesses. They did not request a permit.

- J. **Tree city application for 2014-**

The Commissions will check with JoAnne if it has been sent in.

K. Rutgers Class on tree trimming/pruning.

Dannie will be taking a Rutgers' tree pruning class. Chris Raimondi is doing a class in hazardous tree identification.

L. Bank of America-Letter was sent that the bricks will need removing when a shade tree is planted in that spot.

Some bricks need removing before a tree will be planted. Maybe Sue can send them a letter.

VI. NEW BUSINESS/PERMITS

There was no new business or permits this month.

VII. ADJOURNMENT