

Haworth Shade Tree Commission
Meeting held on January 7, 2015 in the
Municipal Center

Present:

Joe Allegro, Chairman
Peter Brach
Ben Goldstein
Fran Goldstein
Doug Kurjian
Jack Erhard, Consultant
Glenn Poosikian, Council Representative

Guest: Mayor John Smart

The meeting came to order at 7:25 p.m. and the following statement was read: "This is a regular meeting of the Shade Tree Commission of the Borough of Haworth. I am informed by the clerk that adequate public notice has been provided by posting a notice on the bulletin board in the Municipal Center, and by mailing notice to all persons who requested same and prepaid the cost fixed by the Council."

Mayor Smart swore in, thereby extending the terms of, Joseph Allegro as Chairman and Peter Brach as a commissioner of the HSTC.
Mayor Smart swore in Ben Goldstein, who formerly served on the Haworth Environmental Commission. We welcome Ben to the HSTC.

Mayor Smart asked for ways and means to improve the efficiency of serving the Borough of Haworth in providing for our Borough trees. Subjects covered, during the ensuing discussion, included the process of taking down Borough trees, working closer with the DPW, maintaining the esthetic quality that our many Borough trees enhance and lend to the singular nature of the Borough, budgetary requirements to accommodate the essential work of the HSTC, such as the extensive need for pruning, and how to use our limited resources.

The Mayor suggested an equivalent version of the Library's "Friends of the Library" program, such as setting up and maintaining a website, blogging, and an advocacy program.

Donations to the HSTC are not tax deductible.

OLD BUSINESS

We need to:

1. Complete another Five-Year Management Plan.
(Pam Zipse will again do this work for c. \$4,000. We will ask Pam whether she is aware of grants for purchasing and planting.)
2. Submit an “Accomplishment Report.”
3. Take appropriate coursework for eight educational credits (for grant purposes).

NEW BUSINESS

We will apply for a grant for \$3,000.

Jack said that we should continue to use the cost-effective state program in which ex-convicts plant our trees from our tree farm.

Glenn asked whether we are replenishing whips for the Tree Farm. This expenditure should be included in our budget.

Joe said that, for various reasons, we encounter difficulties in finding places to plant Borough trees.

Identifying the Borough’s Heritage Trees for special treatment, such as deep-root feeding, is of paramount importance.

Arbor Day ceremonies should be emphasized to generate interest in and a sense of caring for trees of all kinds.

Ken’s bid of c. \$20,000 was the sole response for a proposed job.

A “certified arborist” is needed for construction sites to determine whether a given Borough tree has been damaged or is in harm’s way from, for example, earth piled too closely to its trunk and upon its roots. Where findings call for action, the Building Inspector can enforce regulations. (In the absence of our regular Building Inspector, who is ill, we have a temporary replacement.)

OTHER BOROUGH TREE MATTERS

Re: the Ivy Avenue paper street, where the builder cleared away in excess of \$9,000 of Borough trees that we planted—can we recover damages?—ask them to pay voluntarily for the losses?—as we feel that there should be some just compensation for the cut and damaged (nicked) Borough trees.

Glenn suggested that we need a sheet accompanying any building application, to explain all Borough tree regulations.

Peter said that the six-foot circumference of safety around Borough trees at construction sites is inadequate.

Jack said that the builder should put up actual cash—not a bond: that is, the “bond” should be in the form of cash.

Joe will write up the HSTC flow-chart of steps for new home-building.

The term “certified arborist” must be used instead of “certified tree expert.”

Jack wondered how the “call in” to the arborist should be done. We must know the hourly rates when we call in a company.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, at 7: 25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Kurjian