

Haworth Shade Tree Commission
Meeting held on February 3, 2015 in the
Municipal Center

Present:

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

Guest: Mayor John Smart

Mayor Smart distributed a “Haworth Shade Tree Commission Communication/Decision Protocol,” which stresses that the HSTC will be NOTIFIED for a three-member APPROVAL prior to the possible removal of any tree in the Borough easement.

Three HSTC members would respond to emergencies for appropriate action. The HSTC has the last say in all Borough-tree matters.

The DPW will advise the HSTC of non-emergencies. Evaluating a non-emergency is left to the discretion of those HSTC members in charge of a given section.

The “48 hour” process has been discontinued.

The Mayor spoke of the need to use all situations as learning experiences.

OLD BUSINESS

Should we notify residents of a proposed planting?

Arrow Tree Service said that three trees in the parking lot of the Swim Club (which is Borough property) need to be taken down.

Joe said that the HSTC’s role in any evaluation of trees at the Swim Club should also include the inside of the Swim Club area.

The HSTC has authority over the trees at the Swim Club, but will not pay for pruning inside of the fence.

Peter will take a look at three dead trees in the parking lot of the Swim Club.

Joe estimated the cost of a Borough-wide mailer to be 1,000 homes x .49c/ stamp.

NEW BUSINESS

Should we put out a bid for a certified tree arborist to serve for a year, or hire a part-time certified tree arborist?

Jack recommends hiring an annual certified tree arborist by the hour. A certified tree arborist can cost \$200 per hour and \$5,000 per year.

Should we hire a designated DPW liaison?

The new bidding process: (1) The Borough prepares a list of trees and advertises the bidding; (2) As the course of bidding is part of a legal document, the Borough attorney is charged with filling out compliant forms; (3) The Borough opens the sealed bids and accepts the lowest responsible bid.

Jack wondered how much this new bidding process will increase the cost. Will we get different bidders besides Arrow, Ken, etc.?

The HSTC Proposed Budget for 2015:

Winter Tree Program: \$27,500

Five-Year Tree Program: (Pam Zipse): \$4,500

Twenty whips @ \$40/whip: \$800-\$1,000

Tree Farm: \$5,000

Arbor Day: \$250.

Continuing Education: \$400

Pruning in Areas of High Volume: ?

Maintenance Pruning (at Tree Farm and for newly planted trees): \$1,300

Non-emergency tree removal: \$6,000

(In 2014, Miscellaneous spent: \$2,800

In 2014, Pruning and Removal maintenance spent: \$9,000)

OTHER TREE MATTERS

A holly tree near the back door of Borough Hall may be taken down. Fran asked whether it can be transplanted.

Re: a Pleasant Street tree: let the resident take it down at his expense, with the agreement that he will plant another tree in its place.

In addition to knowing the address-location of a questionable tree, knowing the section of the Borough is helpful.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Kurjian

We wish all the best to Louise Reich, who has served Haworth as a wise and valued member of the Haworth Shade Tree Commission. If and when, Louise, you find the time in your busy schedule to rejoin us, you will be more than welcome. Thank you.