

Haworth Shade Tree Commission Meeting
held on May 5, 2021, in the Municipal
Center

Present:

Joe Allegro, Chairman

Dina Siciliano, Council Representative

Steve Jureller

Doug Kurjian

Guest: Kevin Burnette, Haworth Building Inspector

The meeting came to order at 7:00 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."

Tentative Budget: \$27,000

Tentative Emergency Budget: \$25,000

Submitted tentative budget for the HSTC: \$52,000

With regard to building permits and construction issues, several values were
discussed, including summons activities, communication between the HSTC and

Haworth's Building Inspector, Certificates of Occupancy, bond of \$5,000 by the given construction company, the need for the builder to be aware of and follow, from the beginning, procedures unique to Haworth, the need for a check-list, assessment of the value of a given Borough tree at a given construction site.

The HSTC seeks an increasingly formal, professional relationship with builders who seek business in Haworth as their work applies to Borough trees.

In seeking to protect our Borough trees at building sites, it is imperative that we analyze the building site-plan, that we communicate more frequently with the builder, and that Kevin join us when we meet with the builder.

We need the builder to understand the measures of compliance with and responsibility for a stipulated fine and for the builder to honor that fine.

Kevin said he determines the amount of a fine according to the caliber of a given tree. The HSTC has submitted a formula for fines, which we have asked Kevin to review and use. Accordingly, the HSTC expects to be regularly informed in specifying the evaluation of a Borough tree involved, the amount of the fine imposed, and the activity that Haworth has taken in enforcing the fine. The HSTC stipulates that the fining apply to the value of the tree in addition to the basic fine.

Kevin assures us that the builders have been agreeable to his requests and that engineers are very reliable.

However, as of now, no official emailing exists between the building engineers and the HSTC. Ideally, for any building site in Haworth to progress successfully, the engineers involved should routinely be expected to be in contact with the HSTC.

In Summation:

The builder must receive a formal bill bearing the letterhead of the HSTC. (The HSTC has a state arborist preparing a statement to this effect.)

A bond, which The HSTC requests, must stipulate protection of a Borough tree, with a two-year window.

For a bond that the HSTC recommends, we ask the builder for support of that bond, with the recognition specifically written on the site plan.

All of the points that the HSTC stipulates for building sites, such as adequate fencing around Borough trees, a debris-clear, adequate margin surrounding a Borough tree, the specific locations of Borough trees, etc.—all are a part of the required \$5,000 bond.

Absentee builders, as well, must append their agreement to these conditions.

Builders should be familiar with HSTC procedures.

Further matters, conditions and stipulations will follow, in due course.

Kevin said that the cost of building materials has increased 100%.

Current Borough construction includes a building site on Whitman St., where a \$1,500 fine was imposed.

Comparative Estimates of Tree-Work in Haworth for One Borough Tree:

\$6,000 –Arrow

\$3,500—Beucler (which the HSTC accepted)

The New Jersey Tree Commission sent the HSTC a large cloth manifest to be hung in display at such events as Arbor Day.

Various other tree matters were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on June 1, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., at the Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Kurjian