

THE OAKLAND SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MINUTES FOR 04/01/13REGULAR MEETING

Meeting called to order:By Chairman John Schaus at 7:08 PM.

Roll Call: Present - Chairman John Schaus, Commissioners Kim Bouma, Don Burns, Peggy Delmour, and Tony Smid. Absent: Commissioner Ed Clark. Council Liaison Sandra Coira was also in attendance.

Salute to the flag: The Commission recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:Chairman Schaus announced the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law duly announced and included in the schedule of regular meetings.

Commission Secretary Don Burns read the minutes for the 03/04/13 meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

Chairman Schausasked for and received a motion to open to the public, which was approved at 7:20 PM.

Mr. Ted Zwolinski, who lives at 10 Cheyenne Court and can be reached at 201-835-0672, brought up a problem where a tree in the Borough Right-of-Way is pushing up the sidewalk in front of his house. He is concerned about someone falling because of the raised sidewalk. He is also concerned about his driveway being affected by the tree roots. He brought pictures to show the tree and highlight his concerns. There was general agreement among the commissioners that the tree is currently not the cause of any problems with the driveway and should not be in the future. There was also general agreement that the condition of the sidewalk is a problem, which we will bring to the attention of the DPW. Commissioner Burns moved and Commissioner Smid seconded a motion for the Commission to have a tree expert come to evaluate the tree and whether it's feasible to lift the sidewalk to trim the roots and then restore or replace the sidewalk.

Ms. Kathleen Boyle, who lives at 8 Pine Crest Drive, is interested in planting trees in the area between Hiawatha Blvd. and Seminole Ave. She wanted to know if the Commission would consider a program/project where the Commission would provide trees to the residents for them to plant. The Commission will take her request under advisement.

Nancy Kraus and Erich Kamm of the Environmental Commission discussed the plans for the Raymond/Stewart property. In particular, they discussed the plan to plant four trees at the edge of the property along Ramapo Valley Road. The Commission agreed that we plan to plant these trees, but without Commissioner Clark present, we couldn't give them an update or any details about these plans.

Chairman Schaus asked for and received a motion to close to the public, which was approved at 8:10 PM.

Commissioner Clark was not available to discuss plans for the Spring planting of trees for Phase II and the additional trees for the Recreation Complex. One tree is also needed for VMS.

Chairman Schaus reported on the following items:

- (1) As in the past, Chairman Schaus will hold the Arbor Day ceremony at VMS. This year the ceremony will be held on Friday, April 26th at 12 PM. The VMS principal and a number of students, who will be involved with planting the new tree at VMS, will be there. The Borough Administrator and some Borough Hall and DPW employees are also expected to be there.**
- (2) Chairman Schaus indicated that Don Wilson, who has spoken with both himself and Commissioner Burns, is interested in returning to the Commission. Commissioner Burns moved to request the Governing Body appoint Mr. Wilson. Commissioner Smid seconded the motion with the unanimous approval of the Commissioners present.**
- (3) Chairman Schaus indicated he has prepared and submitted the 2012 progress report, which is required by the State. He spoke with John Smith from the NJ Forestry Service about our Growth Award Application. Mr. Smith indicated that we need to provide "points" to qualify. John will follow up on this matter, in particular any CEU (Continuing Education Units) we might have.**
- (4) Chairman Schaus indicated we didn't receive our status reports for our Expense Budget and the OSTC Trust Fund balances.**
- (5) The Commission performed 7 inspections in March with a year-to-date total of 21 inspections and we received no fees in March for a year-to-date total of \$175. There were a total of 43 volunteer hours for March. There was no report on work orders for March.**

Chairman Schaus opened the floor for new business, questions, and any further discussion or comments about the items on the agenda or any other matters to be brought before the Commission.

Commissioner Delmour requested a current phone number list. Chairman Schaus reported on the issuance of a permit to Bill Smith to clean-up his property on Ryerson Ave. for new development.

On a motion by Commissioner Delmour, seconded by Commissioner Smid, and approved by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.