

SHADE TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 14, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Committee members present were Steve Zaikowski, Jan Godek, Pat Mills, Charlie Parke, and Rob Sikorski.

OLD BUSINESS

Mike Harmetz – 62 Knob Hill Rd.

A tree request form dated November 14, 2013 was received from Mr. Harmetz identifying a maple tree on the property. Pat will contact Mr. Harmetz to clarify if the request is for removal or replacement.

NEW BUSINESS

Washington Township Shade Tree Replacement Requests

We discussed that because of the magnitude of damage to township street trees in recent years and the cost of balled and burlapped trees, we no longer have the same tree replacement program we once did. We reviewed the Washington Township Shade Tree Replacement Request form to consider revisions which would reflect changes to replacement procedures and our new approach of planting bare root trees at a fraction of the cost of balled and burlapped trees. We discussed deleting the word “replacement” and all references to it on the form.

We discussed continuing to use the form in order to have a record of requests from residents as to what action needs to be taken (i.e., tree inspection, tree removal, etc.). Because there are hundreds of trees to be replaced and absent a time frame for replacing them, we discussed procedures a homeowner would follow if they wished to replace lost trees in the interim. We recommended the following:

Homeowners may replace trees within a shade tree easement at their own expense, subject to specifications set by the Town and an inspection of the trees once planted. Residents who wish to replace their own trees should make a request in writing to the Shade Tree Committee, who will in turn provide recommendations for tree species, size, and tree placement. Prior to planting, the homeowner should have their landscaper contact the Shade Tree Committee.

Rob will draft a form letter and suggested revisions to the Washington Township Shade Tree Request Form, and submit to the township administration for review.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The February meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Godek

Recording Secretary