

SHADE TREE MINUTES – REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2017

Present

George Meglio
Angelo Urato
Paul Dahl
Phil Romero
Dominick Azzolini

Absent

Victor Fontana
Kathy Bhargava

The Reorganization Meeting of the Shade Tree Commission for January 9, 2017 was opened and called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairman George Meglio.

This is our Reorganization Meeting and a motion is necessary to appoint our Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2017.

Motion: Dominick Azzolini, seconded by Angelo Urato named George Meglio as Chairman.

Roll call: All members of the Commission present voted yes. George Meglio abstained.

Motion: Phil Romero, seconded by Paul Dahl named Angelo Urato as Vice-Chairman.

Agenda – Discussion of plans for 2017

Chairman Meglio opened up discussing the 2016 Fall Planting - minimal problems; we ended up planting 77 trees. This year, with the help of the Finance

Committee, he would like to bypass planting this year, except for construction areas. He would like to take the Shade Trees budget and do a Professional Tree Inventory; he has estimates from Paul Cowie. The inventory will be done by district. What this will do for us-it will give us exact species, size & approximate age of all trees, current condition of the tree & of the sidewalk & open planting spaces. The purpose of the inventory is to know what we have & predict the age of the trees. In the 17 years that Chairman Meglio has been in charge, the trees that were first planted 17 years ago, at the end of Sussex, they are starting to mature now. In theory, in 10 years they will be at the end of their life; we will be back to the cycle where we started in 2000 where we would take out 100 at a time that are big, fallen – we will get back to that again. What won't happen is that we will not have wire conflicts, all the trees we have planted are small. So that will never happen again. We can approximate the age of the urban forest and then understand in 2025 we may have 200 trees that will start to have to be replaced over x amount of time.

The other thing, we need to understand is how many Elm (Ash) trees that we have in town. In the next 3 years we will see a decline in the Elm trees. Do we want to cut them down now if they get infected? Most likely we will take them down; not going to replace them nor treat them. Also, if we have some ash trees that are valuable, in terms of their size, we may, as an example have 6 Elm trees, by Paul's house, and there 18 inches, have a value of x dollars, do we want to spend \$500.00 to treat them? We can then make that decision. Right now we can't. The other thing having a tree inventory is if next year maples get a disease we know what we are up against. Right now we are running blind. Rough estimate for a full, computerized inventory is about \$17,000; it requires a lot of work. We usually spend about \$20,000 in planting. Commissioner Urato recommended that each commissioner, after we get the report, go to their district & talk to the resident to see if they do or do not want a tree. That way we have it on record. Commissioner Dahl asked when do you plan on doing the inventory? Chairman Meglio replied when the leaves are out in the Spring. A discussion ensued about the road work. The tree inventory would be best started in 2018.

Commissioner Meglio discussed about having Wesmont changed to District 6. Commissioner Azzolini stated that we should call it Wesmont District until the

area down there is complete. Commissioner Meglio advised that Heidi Cohen from Neglia has been doing a terrific with the trees down at Wesmont.

Councilman Azzolini suggested getting a proposed budget to Councilman Romero who in turn will give it to Finance Chairman Ed Marino.

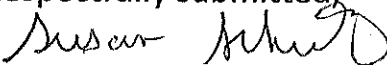
Chairman Meglio asked if the 4 service berry trees can be removed by DPW at Veterans Park and put pavers back. They aren't necessary; serve no purpose. They are located right in front of the gazebo. Will mention this to Superintendent Eilert.

Lastly, Chairman Meglio has been on the phone with the Mayor about the Christmas tree; it is half dead. He stated they don't become dangerous. Councilman Romero can bring it up to the Mayor & Council for discussion. Spring would be the best time to replace it. A 25ft tall tree could cost anywhere from \$8,000 to \$12,000. Root system is in a ball. The tree is dead because of the basketball court. Paved over root system; cut off its life. Big project. Maybe it could be in this year's budget year as we aren't going to plant many trees.

ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business Chairman Meglio seconded by Commissioner Urato moved for adjournment. By unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Schulz

Shade Tree Secretary