

THE HOBOKEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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DAWN ZIMMER
 Mayor



Diana Davis, Chairwoman
 Peter Bakarich, III, Commissioner
 Matt Condon, Commissioner
 Peter Cossio, Commissioner
 Amy Sommer, Commissioner
 Patrick Wherry, Commissioner

Minutes of the January 11, 2016 Shade Tree Commission Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7:04p.m.

The Open Public Meeting Act statement was read by the Commission Secretary.

ROLL CALL:

<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u>	
Commissioner Peter Bakarich	✓
Commissioner Matt Condon	Arrived after roll call ✓
Commissioner Peter Cossio	✓
Commissioner Amy Sommer	✓
Commissioner Patrick Wherry	✓
Chairwoman Diana Davis	✓

Also Present: Leo Pellegrini, Director of Health & Human Services and Environmental Services; Christopher Brown, Designee for Environmental Services; Daisy Amado, secretary; John Miller, Esq. of Weiner Lesniak attorney for the commission.

I. Re-Organization Meeting

Amy Sommer and Patrick Wherry were sworn in by John Miller as full-time commissioners. Motion was made to appoint Diana Davis as Chairwoman of the Commission, voted as follows:

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Commissioner Bakarich			✓			
Commissioner Condon	✓		✓			
Commissioner Cossio		✓	✓			
Commissioner Sommer			✓			
Commissioner Wherry			✓			
Chairwoman Davis						✓

II. Regular Meeting

1. **Chairperson Opening Statement** – Chairwoman acknowledged Daisy Amado and John Miller, Esq.; congratulated Commissioners Sommer and Wherry; acknowledged former Chairman James Tricarico for a job well done. Chairwoman also stated the goal is 4,000 healthy trees by 2020. Also discussed:
 - Compliance as required in five year plan: core-training and community outreach; Commission in compliance as of December 2015. Commission should also send letters to Hoboken Reporter quarterly.
 - Director Pellegrini will forward a list from Cultural Affairs of upcoming activities.
 - Commissioner Condon mentioned invited to give a presentation at the Garden Club in April or March.

Committees were designated as follows:

Committees and committee heads are as follows:

- Commissioner Sommer – gets blueprints for review once submitted to Shade Tree Commission.
- Commissioner Condon – Washington Street project.
- Commissioner Bakarich – volunteer and volunteer projects. We need a database.
- Commissioner Cossio – street trees and liaison with homeowners. Follow-up letters and maintain communication.
- Commissioner Wherry – list of outdated, hazardous and dead trees.

Director Pellegrini mentioned once a project commences it is a City project and he will report back to the Commission.

Discussion among the commission as to steps when Planning Board approves a plan. Director Pellegrini stated that the Planning Board approves but will not sign off on it; they give a “condition.” Planning Board does not sign off until all conditions are met. So it is preliminary hearing, then goes to Shade Tree Commission. John Miller advised that the goal and purpose of all committees are for a review.

2. **Grant status of NJ Forest Service:** Chairwoman advised Green Community Grant for \$3,000 we only get \$2,000. List of Volunteers and they will release \$2000.
3. **Tree Pruning Grant status:** Director Pellegrini discussed grant used for trees on public right-a-way. Grant received in 2013 and there was a match. We took whatever funding and it may not be held from that year. Match appropriated during that year’s budget. Grant can stay we have until 2017. Church Square Park has most dangerous hazardous trees.
4. **Fall planting, status of completed project:** Director Pellegrini advised this has been completed. Barbato received final notice from Legal in December. Lou’s Landscape did an incredible job and fulfilled all dead trees. Commissioner Cossio asked if we used money since we did not pay Barbato and Director Pellegrini advised we used the money to pay Lou since the funds were still encumbered for the project.
5. **Washington Street Project status:** Director Pellegrini advised he chose John and had a change order. Commissioner Condon mentioned a final walk through then present same at next meeting; then populating a punch list. Commissioners had a discussion as to specs.

- 6. 70 Monroe Street application:** This has not gone before the Planning Board yet and will not be discussed at this meeting.

Director Pellegrini stated that the number one reason the Shade Tree Commission is here is to vote on approvals. Commissioner Cossio mentioned these items previously going to attorneys and architects; he was reviewing blueprints then writing a letter and there was no official vote. Director Pellegrini said he has about 10 to 15 projects that have not been approved by the Commission. He further stated that once the Commission votes on it, there is an official document stating the Shade Tree Commission voted on it then it goes back to Planning/Zoning. The City uses a software program called Spatial Data Logic and we can assign a Commissioner to have access or Director Pellegrini/David Calamoneri may update on that program. All items with conditions must be approved by the Commission by vote.

Director Pellegrini to send the 10 to 15 projects not yet approved by Commission to Commissioner Sommer for review.

- 7. Wonderlofts, LLC application – reviewed by the Commission and voted:**

No with the following provisions/recommendations made by the Commission:

1) enlarge tree pit to 4x8. 2) tree pit guards no grates as follows:

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Commissioner Bakarich	✓		✓			
Commissioner Condon			✓			
Commissioner Cossio					✓	
Commissioner Sommer			✓			
Commissioner Wherry			✓			
Chairwoman Davis		✓	✓			

- 9. NJ Shade Tree Federation dues for 2014 and 2015:** this was discussed/addressed by Director Pellegrini and Chairwoman Davis.
- 10. State reimbursement to Commissioner Sommer:** this was discussed/addressed by Director Pellegrini and Chairwoman Davis.
- 11. Public Comments (limited to five minutes per person).** No members of the public appeared before the Commission.

12. New Business

- While plans were being reviewed discussion about “buzz cut” tree and how the Commission could stop a vendor from cutting a tree in that manner. Mr. Miller advised that the Commission has no jurisdiction on private property. Discussion on Municipal Land Use Law. Director Pellegrini suggested we research ordinances within other municipalities on this issue. Chairwoman Davis to send Director Pellegrini information she has on this.
- Spring planting season. Lead time to plant in April: Director Pellegrini has a bid spec; legal review; out to bid 15 to 20 days; have bid opening; next council meeting. Director said he can have ready for March.
- Commissioner Condon mentioned he has no time to chase folks for the \$100 check but he will work with Steve Fahmie for information.

- John Miller also advised the Commission about emails going back and forth between Commissioners; it is ok for two commissioners to be on a particular email however more than two is a quorum and presents a problem in connection to Open Public Meeting Act. Mr. Miller advised the Commissioners to be mindful of same.

Motion to close the meeting.

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Commissioner Bakarich						✓
Commissioner Condon	✓		✓			
Commissioner Cossio			✓			
Commissioner Sommer			✓			
Commissioner Wherry			✓			
Chairwoman Davis		✓	✓			

Meeting concluded at 8:34pm.

(Minutes taken/submitted by D. Amado)