

Frenchtown Shade Tree Commission
Regular Meeting
August 14, 2012

Chairman Robert Haver called the meeting to order at 5:46 pm and stated that all the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Law have been met.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Robert Haver
Travis Boyd
William Sullivan
John Wagner

Absent: Geoffrey Stanley

OLD BUSINESS

Town wide tree inventory & assessment

Robert Haver noted that he spoke with Geoffrey Stanley and they are getting together. William Sullivan noted that they are hoping to get together next Monday at 5:30 pm. He asked if there was a section of town that is more important than another. Robert Haver commented that he does not believe that they looked at Kingwood Avenue. We have a request about Trenton Avenue. William Sullivan stated that he did an assessment of the numbered streets and Milford Avenue. We can start on Kingwood Avenue and Trenton Avenue. John Wagner stated that Kingwood Avenue is under the jurisdiction of the County. The County did the planting there.

Tree replacement recommendations

Robert Haver stated that we have not gotten this done yet.

Park cleanup, tree maintenance

Robert Haver reported that the park clean up and tree maintenance at the park is complete.

Tree planting and maintenance

Robert Haver stated that this will go in conjunction with the tree inventory and assessment.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Robert Haver noted that the meeting minutes for the June 12th meeting are not available because the recorder did not record. He will attempt to use his notes to put something together and then it can be approved at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

2012 Routine Maintenance Work

a) Lower 5th Street termite infested tree

Robert Haver noted that he has pictures of the termite infested tree and believes that this tree and the Fourth Street trees should be done.

b) Ken Hoover Tree work Lower 4th.

Robert Haver noted that there are two trees on Lower Fourth Street that should be trimmed. They will take out the dead branches and trim the trees. We addressed that one tree two years ago and now we are spending more money on it again. He does not want to take it

down because it is still a healthy tree. Geoffrey Stanley noted that he spoke with Tom Karkas and he is doing a lot of clean up from the last storm and he will call him when he is in the area and will look at those trees and do the work within two weeks or so. Robert Haver noted that the tree on Fifth Street appears to be in the right of way. The take down of the Fifth Street tree and the two trims on Fourth Street will probably be close to a day of work. Robert Haver added that they can leave the tree there and he will contact public works to remove them. Anything that does not go in the chipper he can leave. He would like to do stumps whenever we can fit it in. It will probably take a day to do the stumps. There are stumps on Harrison Street, Third Street, Fifth Street and Sixth Street.

2012 Plantings

(a) Should have a minimum of 3 locations for approval at the 8/14 meeting

Robert Haver stated that he would like to plant two trees in front of Seip's property on Fifth Street. He noted that he put in a goal of 3 locations for approval at the August 14th meeting. He would like to plant two trees if we take down two trees. He is looking at grants available through the NJDEP.

(b) Sutphin Tree Removal (their work, we approve)

Robert Haver stated that he would like the Shade Tree Commission to approve that they can take the tree down in front of the house. It is a healthy tree but the Sutphins do not like it because it is a dirty tree. It has also heaved the sidewalk badly. If we allow them to take it down it would be under the stipulation that they put in another tree and we will identify the tree. We could pay for the new tree since they are paying for the tree removal. The cost would be around \$500.00 for a three inch tree. Robert Haver noted that the email from Mr. Sutphin was passed to me from the Mayor and the Mayor asked us to take care of it. He attempted to call Mrs. Sutphin and she never called him back. Robert Haver read the email for the record:

Hi Mayor, I emailed you yesterday from your site but I am not sure if it went through so here I go again. I am a twenty-five year homeowner in Frenchtown. I live on Fourth Street and have two houses. One we rent to Rich and Lea Cahill. There is a tree in front of our house that emits a constant sap shower. The tree itself has a black moldy substance on its trunk and leaves. I just finished spraying their porch with a bleach solution to kill the mold that coats both of our porches in the spring, summer and fall. This tree is a mess. If you park under it your car is covered with sap and then bees and wasps. I was wondering if you would kindly assess the situation and advise what we could agree upon to rectify the situation. We would agree to pay to have the tree taken down but we need permission to do so. I think at this point, the tree is a health hazard. The black mold that appears this time of year is unsightly but it could pose a risk to people. The Cahill's have two young children and they both suffer from allergies. They keep the windows closed in front of the house to keep the mold out.

Robert Haver asked if Mr. Sutphin should also remove the stump. Robert Haver spoke with John Wagner who indicated that it would cost approximately \$350.00 installed. On motion by Geoff Stanley and seconded by Travis Boyd and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Shade Tree Commission agreed to allow Frank Sutphin to remove the tree in front of 33-35 Fourth Street and the stump at their own expense and

replace the tree somewhere along the property with a 2 ½ to 3 inch caliper maple, oak or zelkova tree.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned by unanimous favorable voice vote at 6:05 p.m. on motion by Geoff Stanley and seconded by Travis Boyd.

Robert E. Haver II, Chairman
Shade Tree Commission