

WYCKOFF SHADE TREE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Shade Tree Commission Chair Donald Smith called the Shade Tree Commission Meeting to order at 7:30 pm in the small conference room on the second floor of Memorial Town Hall.

Shade Tree Secretary Elaine Booth read the Open Public Meeting statement: "This Regular meeting of the Wyckoff Shade Tree Commission is now in session. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting appears on our Annual Schedule of meetings. A copy of the Annual Schedule has been posted on the Bulletin Board in Memorial Town Hall; a copy has been filed with the Municipal Clerk, *The Record*, *The Ridgewood News* and the *North Jersey Herald & News* – all newspapers have general circulation throughout the Township of Wyckoff. At least 48 hours prior to this meeting, the agenda was similarly posted, filed and mailed to said newspapers."

Members Present: Donald Smith, Mark Borst, Kevin Rooney

Staff Present: Elaine Booth, Shade Tree Commission Secretary

Absent: Scott A. Fisher, Commission member

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1. The Shade Tree Commission has invited Rockland Electric officials to attend tonight's meeting for a discussion regarding the Shade Tree Commission's dissatisfaction with the tree trimming Rockland Electric's vendor performs to keep branches away from electric power lines. Community Relations Manager Michelle Damiani and John Circelli came forward to join the discussion. The Shade Tree Commission expressed concern that the Rockland Electric's arborist is not thoroughly inspecting the work and the tree trimming is overly aggressive. The Rockland Electric representatives explained that utility companies, as part of their State issued franchise to provide electric power, have the right to trim trees on the right-of-way which interfere or may interfere with the power lines. They explained that a few years ago when the Northeastern states experienced a power outage, it was due to a branch, which caused the power outage. Therefore, the tree trimming is a safety precaution. The Shade Tree Commission members indicated that even though tree trimming is a safety precaution, it must be performed with the aesthetics of the tree in mind. Ms. Damiani suggested that any residents with complaints can be referred directly to her.
 2. The Shade Tree Commission is still waiting for the contract for the Community Forestry Management Plan Grant from NJDEP, Division of Parks & Forestry. Numerous telephone calls have been made to obtain the contract to verify the grant.
 3. In the interim, information regarding a Community Forestry Management Plan was provided for review by the Shade Tree Commissioners.
 4. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Elaine Booth, Secretary
Wyckoff Shade Tree Commission