

**TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, September 2, 2014 6:34 pm

1. Shade Tree Commission Chair called the Shade Tree Commission Public Business Meeting to order at 6:34 pm in the small conference room on the second floor of Town Hall.
2. Shade Tree Commission Secretary Elaine Booth read the Open Public Meetings statement: "This Public Business Meeting of the Wyckoff Shade Tree Commission is now in session. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this Public Business Meeting appears on our Annual Schedule of meetings. A copy of said 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 which have general circulation throughout the Township of Wyckoff. At least 48 hours prior to this meeting, the Agenda thereof was similarly posted, filed and mailed to said newspapers." Formal action may be taken at this meeting.
3. Roll Call - Present:
Shade Tree Commission members: Mark Borst, Scott Fisher, Glenn Sietsma, Bill Butler
Staff present: Elaine Booth, Shade Tree Commission Secretary
Township Committee Liaison: Kevin J. Rooney
Absent: Dan Kindergan
4. Approval of the meeting minutes from April 1, 2014 and May 6, 2014. Scott Fisher made motion to approve both the April and May meeting minutes as written, seconded by Glenn Sietsma. All present voted in favor; motion approved.
5. Old Business:
 - a. 690 Wyckoff Avenue. Scott Fisher reported that the application was denied by the Wyckoff Planning Board. (Approval of the revised landscape plans had been granted by the Shade Tree Commission).
 - b. Russell Farms Community Park
Mr. Rooney reported that the Girl Scouts from Wyckoff Troop 76, as part of their Bronze Award developed a Tree Guide for Russell Farms Community Park. The Tree Guide was presented to the Township Committee on Saturday, June 7, 2014 at a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Park 10:00 am. The girls completed identifying the tree species in the Arboretum. Over thirty members of the community attended this event and learned more about trees.
Mr. Rooney also reported that six (6) benches have been installed by the Department of Public Works. The six benches have been donated by residents in memory of individuals. It was noted that the powerful rain storms the entire area has experienced which produce three (3) inches of rain in one hour are becoming more and more frequent. Therefore, the drainage system was reviewed and modified for improved drainage at the park by the Department of Public Works.
Mr. Rooney addressed a question concerning a sensory garden for Russell Farms Community Park. Sensory gardens work well only when their components are well thought out. There are sensory gardens in other communities where individuals and organizations have great intentions; however, they must be financially independent of the municipality and must have a long term plan in place detailing how they will be maintained and by whom.

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6. New Business

- a. Mr. Rooney advised that the Public Policy Planning Subcommittee will be discussing a Shade Tree Ordinance to address clear cutting of trees on private property. Several towns in the surrounding area have tree ordinances in place which regulate the number of tree removals on private property by establishing an annual limit. The Township Committee aspires to protect and limit the number of tree removals on private property by establishing an annual limit. The ordinance must address the issue of prohibition, enforcement and removal. This ordinance will require a lengthy consideration process; it is also anticipated there will be discussion regarding heritage trees, which will necessitate a separate ordinance.
- b. Partners in Pride (PIP's) request to plant on Grandview Avenue Island. Commission members discussed the request to upgrade the appearance of the traffic island on Grandview/Wyckoff Avenue. Dialogue resulted identifying issues such as motorist site visibility concerns, snow plowing and understory plants. Approval was granted to plant one (1) 3.5 diameter Hornbeam tree at this time. Secretary to advise President of PIP's of Shade Tree Commission decision and to make certain the PIP's President advises the tree contractor he is required to call for utility mark outs prior to planting.
- c. The Shade Tree Commission received a thank you from the Partner's in Pride stating that they appreciate the way the Commission supports their work for the environment as well as combating litter through the years.

Motion to adjourn by Bill Butler, second by Glenn Sietsma. All present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned 730 pm.

Elaine Booth, Secretary
Shade Tree Commission