

Minutes of the **May 2, 2017** meeting of the **Conservation Board of the TOWN OF ORCHARD PARK**, Municipal Center, Basement Meeting Room, S4295 South Buffalo Street, Orchard Park, New York at 6:45 P.M. Present were the following:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Schechter, Chairman/Nan Ackerman/Tom Jaeger/Alex Long
Frank Newton/George Schichtel/Ashleigh Hauser, Alternate

EXCUSED: David Ward/Thomas Jaeger

OTHERS PRESENT: Eugene Majchrzak, Councilman
John Bernard, Planning Director/Rosemary Messina, Secretary

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:45 P.M. by stating that in accordance with the provisions of the Ethics Law of the Town of Orchard Park it is incumbent upon any Conservation Board member with a financial or business relationship with any petitioner coming before this Board to disclose this relationship and, if warranted, to recuse him or herself from any matter involving the petitioner. Any petitioner coming before this Board who is a relative of, or has a financial or business relationship with, any officer or employee of the Town of Orchard Park, must disclose the nature and extent of such relationship in accordance with the provisions of the ethics law of the Town of Orchard Park.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Newton made a **MOTION**, seconded by Ms. Houser, to **APPROVE** the February 28, 2017 minutes. Motion **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** by the Board.

Chairman Schechter stated that the Board will discuss the Street Tree List first, and then the R.O.W. Ordinance.

1. Conservation Board members to discuss Town's "Street Tree" list.

Mr. Schichtel distributed copies of the Town's "Street Tree List", and told the members that Mr. Ward, who is excused this evening, shared his thoughts with him regarding this meeting.

Mr. Schichtel discussed a NYS DEC Street Tree List, noting that it contained a listing of "evasive tree species". These are varieties that must be limited in planting due to infestation and poor results. Mr. Schichtel spoke of the Emerald Ash Borer that has infested and killed Ash Trees. He noted that tree varieties are being improved. For example, there are three-Honey Locust varieties, and "Skyline" is the better tree. He further noted that there are approximately 60-varieties of trees species on the Street Tree List, and that he will update the list with improved varieties, and is awaiting a list from Highway Superintendent Fred Piasecki that contains newly constructed streets.

Planning Director John Bernard noted that the "Street Tree List" has not been updated in over 20-years, and that there are newly constructed streets that need trees to be planted. It was learned that for new home construction permits there is a fee that includes \$350 that is used for a tree to be planted in the R.O.W. and cared for by the Town.

Chairman Schechter established that it is not known if there is a special account kept for the funds remaining for the unplanted trees.

Councilman Majchrzak stated he does not remember a line item in reference to trees in the Highway Budget.

Mrs. Ackerman feels the Board members should drive and take a tree inventory for each street, and find what is missing and bring the information back to the Board for action. They will also check their list against Highway Superintendent Piasecki's list.

Building Inspector Andrew Geist will be contacted to review the process of the tree funds collected.

The members established that Mr. Ward had voiced to Mr. Schichtel the same concerns the Board spoke of.

The members would like to review the City of Buffalo's street tree list. It was further noted that U.S. Geological Maps can be used to save time in reviewing soils. The Engineering Department will also be contacted to review their information.

Planning Director John Bernard suggests having a list that shows major and minor tree plantings.

Chairman Schechter stated that the more information we have for Petitioners, the better.

Summary- planting and maintenance is important; It was determined that every street in the Town and Village should be reviewed, and updated with regard to tree plantings.

2. Conservation Board members to discuss Town's "Right-of-Way-Ordinance".

Mr. Schichtel told the members that Mrs. Ackerman and he have spent much time on this ordinance. He feels the members should read through this document and understand it. He would like to know if changes are needed. He briefly went over the highlights of the document with the members, noting that utility companies notify the Town they are coming to prune trees, upgrade a street, and report diseased and injured trees.

Mrs. Ackerman read the code and would like additional language added to where the fee is held for a Street Tree planting.

The Board discussed the procedure for code changes and updating. They are concerned that \$350 maybe too little an amount for the cost of a tree. It was noted that sometime this summer the Town Board will be reviewing the ordinances.

Mr. Schichtel would like suggestions made at the next meeting and not via email.

Mr. Schechter feels we have a better street tree program than others and he thanked Mrs. Ackerman and Mr. Schichtel for driving and assembling the information.

Mr. Schichtel stated that he would like the Landscape Ordinance made simple. He distributed a copy of this document with his revised language, asking the members to review and comment at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

DATED: June 26, 2017
REVIEWED:
Richard Schechter, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosemary M. Messina Secretary