

**Meeting Minutes for West Pittston Shade Tree Commission Meeting  
July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**In Attendance:**

Lou Berti, President

Marta Jones, Treasurer

Lynn Burbank, Secretary

Matthew Carroll, Commission Member

Keighlyn Oliver, Solicitor

A quorum is in attendance and the meeting was called to order at 7:02pm

**Action Items**

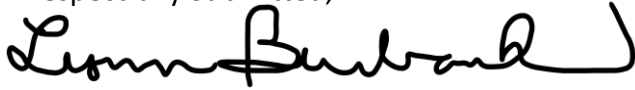
1. Marta Jones made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting held on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as emailed, and presented by Lynn Burbank. Lou Berti seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Lynn Burbank made a motion to pay Solicitor Oliver's invoice in the amount of \$140.00 for legal services provided. Lou Berti seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
3. Lou Berti made a motion to have the estate of Judith Barone pay for the removal, stump grinding, and replanting of trees of the same caliper that were damaged by Judith Barone's landscaper. There was no permit issued and it happened on several occasions without permission or without a licensed, insured arborist. The motion failed to gain a second and did not pass.
4. Lynn Burbank made a motion to contact the estate representative of Judith Barone, owner of 45 Luzerne Ave, to discuss and enter into a formal agreement to be drawn up by Solicitor Oliver regarding the removal and stump grinding of the four damaged trees on the tree lawn. The estate will be given 60 days to complete the work. New replacement trees will be planted on the site in the fall as a part of the Shade Tree Commission's fall planting (Princeton Elms). Marta Jones seconded the motion. A roll call was taken as follows: Lynn Burbank, aye; Marta Jones, aye; Matthew Carroll, aye; Lou Berti, no. Motion carried.
5. A motion was made by Marta Jones to approve the removal of a tree at 230 Damon Street. A new tree will be planted as a part of the fall planting. Matthew Carroll seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
6. Matthew Carroll made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm.

**Other Items**

1. The financial report was given. We currently have a balance of \$10,071.67 as reported by Treasurer Marta Jones. We are still waiting for reimbursement from the borough for our 2023 legal expenses in the amount of \$891.65. Much of this will be spent on our fall planting.

2. Louis Berti spoke with Charles Barone about the trees located at 45 Luzerne Avenue. He felt that what was being asked was too costly. Motions were made and there is a plan going forward to reach out to him and discuss the compromise proposed by the commission.
3. Matthew Carroll's and Louis Berti's list of hazardous trees and stumps that require grinding are being reviewed by Marta Jones to see if permits were issued. Letters will go out once we know if the trees were removed with or without a permit.
4. Citations are being issued this week for the removal and pruning of several trees on the tree lawn located at 1200 Susquehanna Avenue. Lou Berti, Matthew Carroll, and Marta Jones all are going to be registering with the magistrate to be able to issue summonses in addition to Lynn Burbank. Solicitor Oliver informed us that she will attend the hearing for the first time we go through the process and any subsequent hearings where we may require her to be present.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Burbank". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Lynn Burbank, Secretary