

Borough of Red Bank
Shade Tree Committee
January 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Remedios Quiroz.

Members Present: Bill Brooks, Boris Kofman, Brigid McCarthy, Debbie Marks, Remedios Quiroz, Joanna Rovito

Absent: Samantha Flores-Castillo

Ex-officio member: Council Member Angela Mirandi (remote)

Guests:

Topics Discussed (updates in *italics*)

1. *December 20 meeting minutes approved.*
2. *Officer election: Remedios - Chair, Bill - Vice-Chair, Boris - Secretary. Unanimous vote.*
3. *Training. Boris and Brigid took a webinar.*
4. *Tree Inventory Update – Will start Zone 3 in the spring.*
5. *NJUCF Stewardship Grant.*
 - a. Trees at 32 Oakland St and 34 Chestnut St – per Chief McConnell, they will impede the visibility of the STOP signs and need to be moved (should be at least 50 feet away). **Angela** will ask Maria to contact NJTF. The new locations are 58 Locust Ave (a tree requested by the homeowner) and 26 Chestnut St (also requested by the homeowner), respectively.
 - b. **Bill** will confirm that the list of locations has been sent to NJUCF.
6. *Hazardous trees survey. Bill agreed to do it. It will include the private trees that may reach the ROW.*
7. *Development projects. Shawna Banks explained the process.*
 - a. The applicant and the Board receive our comments. The engineer includes the calculations in the report. Resolutions always state that the applicant must comply with the STC recommendations. After the application is approved, it goes to the resolution compliance phase. If anything is missing, the engineer will see it. If any money is requested in the resolution, it must be paid before the building permit is issued. After the construction is completed, the engineer makes sure that the project is in compliance with the resolution and site plan.
 - b. Shawna will forward to us the engineer's report and resolutions that we're interested in.
 - c. Shawna will put a paper copy of the site plans in the STC mailbox.
 - d. *Shawna shared the current balance in the trust fund and recent deposits made by developers.*
8. *Broad St. project. Some of the London Planetrees are in decline. Most of the trees (except the one considered beyond saving) got treated with a chemical solution (fertilizer, root growth hormone). After the trees fully leaf out, we'll know if it's working.*
9. *White St Parking Lot. Possibly plant in the spring.*
10. Consider changing the ordinance to increase the cost per tree for developers (currently \$500). Find out what a typical tree costs today. **Bill** may have an idea. **Remedios** will check what Shrewsbury's ordinance says.
11. **Valley Forge' American Elm.** It's on our Recommended Species list. At the webinar on tree diseases that Boris attended this cultivar was described as "poor form and prone to failure". **'New Harmony'** was recommended instead, among a few others. NJTF has seen them in NJ nurseries. American Yellowwood is another tree to consider for future plantings. A developer had planted three on Berry St. and they're doing well so far. NJTF said they're available too.
12. Consider planting trees on lawns near the sidewalk. *Councilwoman Mirandi ran it by the Borough Attorney, who advised that homeowner would need to sign an indemnity form. There is no consensus to move forward with it.*
13. Membership – *Bill's and Samantha's terms have been extended.*
14. NJ Forestry Annual Accomplishments Report. *Boris drafted it. Remedios will review.*
15. Tree City USA application. *Boris drafted it. Remedios reviewed and will forward for a signature to the mayor.*
16. Tree Inventory. *Boris updated the public version.*
17. *2023 Budget. About \$1300 allocated in the temporary budget.*

18. *Draft Master Plan. There are many references to trees, including the Community Forestry Management Plan and recommendations. Everyone is encouraged to review the draft and provide comments.*
19. *Seedlings from the State. Request 100. Boris will fill out the application.*

Maintenance/planting requests

1. River's Edge public access path (end of Bank St.) – The developer planted 15 Red Oaks along the path. Remedios and Boris met onsite with the developer Charles Farkou and HOA President Jeff Loonan. The agreement is to replace 4 dying trees and accept \$1500 into the trust fund for 3 trees that have been removed. Mr. Farkou agreed to plant the 4 trees in the spring (2019). Replacement trees have not been planted. Mr. Farkou has deposited \$1500 into the trust fund, per Ms. Ebanks. Councilwoman Mirani talked with Ms. Ebanks, who was under the impression that there were no outstanding issues. Boris forwarded to Ms. Ebanks and Councilwoman Mirandi the emails referencing the outstanding issues. **Shawna** will look into it.
2. County trees. **Bill** is working with the County Div. of Shade Tree on getting hazardous trees removed. The County will next prioritize the removal of the 2 Willow Oaks on Harding west of Clay.
3. 44 Linden Pl. - tree leaning. DPU tried to stake it, but couldn't move the tree. **Bill** will take a look.
4. **Bill will ask Cliff** to update the maintenance list.
5. 27 West St & Wall St. Bradford Pears have been removed. There is not much horizontal space for trees. Instead of planting there, funds for 2 trees should be deposited into the Shade Tree Fund. **Bill** will send the property owner info to Shawna.
6. Bellhaven – **A new** Red Oak has been planted near the fence. Needs a gator bag. **Cliff**
7. 51 E. Westside Ave. - two mature Pin Oaks were removed. According to **Cliff**, the property owner did it because they were lifting the sidewalk. The property owner promised to plant a tree on the lawn near the sidewalk. If only one is planted, STC would like \$500 deposited into the Shade Tree Fund. **Debbie** will check if any trees have been planted.
8. 40 Spring St. Homeowners asking if the tree on Mechanic St. removed during the Spring St project could be replaced by 2 small trees. The planting strip is under 2 feet. **Angela** will check if a replacement tree was planned by the project.
9. Dead tree at Avis on Water St. Code Enforcement – **Debbie** will refer it.
10. Trees around Globe Ct Garage. The 4 trees in front of the garage on E. Front St have been replaced with Lindens (2 Littleleaf and 2 Silver Lindens). In addition, the pits have been covered by rubber mulch "rings" (actually, squares). These "rings" also now cover 2 existing trees on Globe Ct. Issues with this: 1. The species are wrong for planting under wires. 2. The rubber mulch rings may not be good for trees - <https://blog.davey.com/2018/06/are-rubber-mulch-rings-good-or-bad-for-trees/> This is the third batch of trees in that location in the last 5 years or so. We had recommended to the hospital in 2019 to have the soil tested, but we never heard back from them. Joanna spoke to her contact at Riverview Hospital. They said the hospital had planted trees as per STC guidelines. There doesn't seem to be any evidence of that occurring. **Joanna** asked for clarification, no response so far.
11. 13 Worthley – The tree has been removed. Need to ensure that a replacement is planted by the homeowner after the new house is in place. **Cliff** to follow up.
12. Lunch Break expansion. The Maple has been taken down. Remedios sent email to Ed Herrman asking to make sure \$1,000 is paid into the Shade Tree Trust fund for 2 replacement trees. *Shawna Ebanks reported that she had received the check.*
13. Eastside Park - Arborvitae planted by contractor is almost dead - Need replacement - **Cliff**
14. 40 McLaren St - Resident is requesting to remove the tree that is causing sewer backup at their expense. They will plant a replacement tree somewhere else on the property away from the sewer line. The tree has been on the removals list since 2019. We approve their removal of the tree and planting of replacement on their property near the sidewalk. Remedios sent email to the resident who responded with a request to plant in the spring.
15. Dead tree off 42 Wallace in the parking lot - right on the property line. Not sure who is responsible for removing it. **Cliff**
16. 20 Locust Ave – homeowner nailed aluminum sheets around the tree, which violates the tree protection ordinance. **Remedios** will refer to Code Enforcement.
17. Oak at Wawa on W. Front St. There's a big basal cavity, and dieback. **Bill** will take a look at it.
18. 59 South St. Resident inquiring about the current status of the tree. *Bill did not see any new borer activity. Remedios responded that we'll monitor it after the tree leafs out.*
19. *All but one tree that we wanted removed on Shrewsbury Ave are gone. A few others were removed as well.*

20. *Salt in the tree pit of trees on Broad St (in front of RB Catholic HS and St. James) needs to be removed and gypsum added to the pits to desalinate the soil. Cliff*

Public Comments

None

Planning/Zoning Board Applications

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Boris Kofman, Secretary

CC: Shade Tree Committee, Mayor & Council, Business Administrator Darren McConnell, Public Utilities Director Cliff Keen, Borough Engineer Ed Herrman, Director of Community Development Shawna Ebanks, Borough Clerk Laura Reinertsen