

Borough of Red Bank
Shade Tree Committee
February 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

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

Members Present: Bill Brooks (left at 8:25), Samantha Flores-Castillo (left at 8:25), Boris Kofman, Brigid McCarthy, Debbie Marks (remote), Remedios Quiroz, Joanna Rovito (left at 8:25)

Absent:

Ex-officio member:

Guests: Gary Watson - Interim DPU Director, Terrence Walton – DPU Supervisor

Topics Discussed (updates in *italics*)

1. *January 17 meeting minutes approved.*
2. Training. Boris took a webinar about Oaks. Consider planting small species, like [Dwarf chestnut oak](#) and Myrtle oak. Bill will look into it.
3. Tree Inventory Update – Will start Zone 3 in the spring.
4. 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). NJTF would charge for the transplanting and not guarantee the trees. Boris suggests moving the tree from 32 Oakland to 61 Pearl St in order to minimize the distance. DPU will request utility markouts and transplant the trees. Boris will put a door hanger on 61 Pearl St.
 - b. 98 Catherine St – the Redbud has been snapped. Needs to be removed/replaced. Bill will look for a local contractor to do it this spring.
 - c. Boris will email the list of locations to NJUCF.
5. Hazardous trees survey.
6. 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.
7. White St Parking Lot. Possibly plant in the spring.
8. 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.
9. '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. Update the list.
10. NJ Forestry Annual Accomplishments Report. *Received by the State, giving Red Bank the Accredited status.*
11. Tree City USA application. *Submitted.*
12. Seedlings from the State. *Application for 100 submitted. Nancy Facey-Blackwood will pick them up. Will be given out at the Red Bank Green Fair on April 20. Remedios and Brigid will be there.*
13. 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. Bill suggested the option of giving the homeowner a voucher to purchase a tree. Council Member [Mirandi](#) to run it by the Borough Attorney.
14. Eastside Park project. Bill attended the Parks & Rec meeting and talked to the engineer. A hard fence will protect the trees near the project.
15. Spring St. Project. Recommend the following plantings:
 - a. 110 East Front Street (Spring Street Side), Serviceberry - OK
 - b. 52 Tower Hill Avenue (Spring Street Side), Serviceberry (2 trees) - We just planted a tree there. We recommend the Serviceberries be planted instead at #188 and #192
 - c. 220 Spring Street, Sunburst Honeylocust – OK
 - d. Recommend that the residents be informed of tree planting before the trees are planted.
16. Mechanic-Wallace parking lot project. Most of the trees have been removed. Bill will ask Shawna for the landscape plan.

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. **Gary** to update the maintenance list. *Boris shared the list with Gary. Bill will work with Gary on prioritizing the work.*
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. *Per Shawna, the representative said the check will be issued at the end of February.*
6. Bellhaven – A new Red Oak has been planted near the fence. Needs a gator bag. **Remedios**
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 reported that no trees have been planted. **Debbie** will refer it to Code Enforcement.
8. Dead tree at Avis on Water St. Code Enforcement – removed.
9. 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.
10. 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. **Shawna**.
11. Eastside Park - Arborvitae planted by contractor has been removed. Need replacement. **Shawna**
12. 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.
13. Dead tree off 42 Wallace in the parking lot - right on the property line. *Bill determined it's on the private property.* **Remedios** will refer it to Code Enforcement.
14. 20 Locust Ave – homeowner nailed [aluminum sheets](#) around the tree, which violates the tree protection ordinance. **Remedios** will refer to Code Enforcement.
15. Oak at Wawa on W. Front St. There's a big basal cavity, and dieback. **Bill** will take a look at it.
16. 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. **Gary**
17. 222 Broad St – resident requesting removal of a lower branch. *There's no public tree at that address, but one at #218 is a County tree. Remedios referred the resident to the County.*
18. 162 Bridge Ave - One of the limbs has a [crack](#) and should be pruned. Added it to the maintenance list.
19. 170 River St (on Tilton Ave) The Tuliptree is already on the removal list. Boris thinks it needs to be given priority because it's near RBPS. Bill asked JCPL forestry to remove it.
20. 48 W Sunset Ave - Owner is asking if the lifted sidewalk was caused by a borough tree that was removed in 2018. It was an old tree. We don't know when it was planted. Not really sure what the owner is requesting. **Gary** will respond to the resident.

Public Comments

None

Planning/Zoning Board Applications

1. 20 N. Bridge Ave (Wawa). Per frontages on W Front St and N Bridge Ave a total of 10 trees are required. There are 2 existing trees. There is a deficiency of 8 trees. STC recommends the following
 - a. Plant 4 trees on N Bridge.
 - b. The planting strip on W front is too narrow. We don't recommend planting trees there.
 - c. Deposit \$2,000 ($\500×4) for the remaining deficiency after planting 4 trees on Bridge
 - d. If they decide not to plant trees on N Bridge, they should deposit a total of \$4,000 to the shade tree fund. Or \$500 for each tree not planted + \$2,000.

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 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