

Borough of Red Bank
Shade Tree Committee
March 21, 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

Absent: Samantha Flores-Castillo, Joanna Rovito

Ex-officio member:

Guests:

Topics Discussed (updates in *italics*)

1. *February 21 meeting minutes approved.*
2. Training. Boris attended a webinar on mitigating infrastructure conflicts.
3. Tree Inventory Update – Will start Zone 3 when it gets warmer.
4. NJUCF Stewardship Grant.
 - a. *Trees at 32 Oakland St and 34 Chestnut St have been moved by DPU to 61 Pearl St and 26 Chestnut St, respectively. Boris emailed the updated list of locations to NJUCF.*
 - 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.
5. Hazardous trees survey. *On hold.*
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. *Need to find out if there's a threshold for how much money can be awarded to a contractor without a bid when using the Shade Tree Trust Fund – Councilmember Mirandi.*
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. Recommended Species List.
 - a. 'Valley Forge' American Elm is on the 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.
 - b. American Yellowwood. A developer had planted three on Berry St. and they're doing well so far. NJTF said they're available too. *Add to the list.* Boris
 - c. Consider planting small species, like Dwarf Chestnut Oak and Myrtle Oak. Bill will look into it.
10. *Tree City USA - Designation granted.*
11. *Seedlings from the State. Application rejected due to lack of seedlings. Remedios asked them to reconsider, but they didn't.*
12. *Arbor Day. Will have a table at the Green Fair on April 20. Debbie suggested creating a flyer about STC – Brigid and Debbie. Other ideas: showing the tree inventory, tree-related videos.*
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. Spring St. Project.
15. Mechanic-Wallace parking lot project. Most of the trees have been removed. Bill will ask Shawna for the landscape plan.
16. *South St. Road Project. T&M is the engineer. Need to remind them to include STC in the process.*
17. *HPC is considering including significant trees in the ordinance. Remedios asked HPC for ordinances in other municipalities and their experience. Concerns – which trees would be protected? Historic trees, "significant specimen"? Who is qualified to make the determination?*

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. *Bill worked 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 payment of \$1000 has been deposited into the fund.*
 6. Bellhaven – A new Red Oak has been planted near the fence. Needs a gator bag. *DPU placed one.*
 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. 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.
 9. 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**.
 10. Eastside Park - Arborvitae planted by contractor has been removed. Need replacement. **Gary**
 11. Dead tree off 42 Wallace in the parking lot - right on the property line. Bill determined it's on private property. *Remedios referred it to Code Enforcement.*
 12. 20 Locust Ave – homeowner nailed aluminum sheets around the tree, which violates the tree protection ordinance. **Remedios** will refer to Code Enforcement.
 13. Oak at Wawa on W. Front St. There's a big basal cavity, and dieback. **Bill** will take a look at it.
 14. 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**
 15. *Boris noticed that many Zelkovas have rubbing branches. Here's [one example](#) at 88 Linden Pl. Should we see if DPU can handle it?*
 16. *Warwick Gardens on Pinckney Rd. Inquiring if there's a program regarding the purchase and planting of a shade tree.*
 17. 32 N. Bridge Ave. One of the newly planted trees has low branches over the street. **Boris** will prune them.

Public Comments

None

Planning/Zoning Board Applications

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Boris Kofman, Secretary

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