

Borough of Red Bank
Shade Tree Committee
July 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Remedios Quiroz.

Members Present: Boris Kofman, Debbie Marks, Remedios Quiroz, Joanna Rovito

Absent: Bill Brooks, Samantha Flores-Castillo, Brigid McCarthy

Ex-officio member: Councilmember Nancy Facey-Blackwood

Guest:

Topics Discussed (updates in *italics*)

1. *Re-organization.*
 - a. *Officer election: Remedios - Chair, Bill - Vice-Chair, Boris - Secretary. Unanimous vote.*
 - b. *Member terms: Brigid, Debbie, Boris – 2023, Remedios, Joanna, Samantha – 2024, Bill – 2025*
 - c. *Meeting dates - every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm.*
2. *June 20 meeting minutes approved.*
3. *Training. Boris attended a webinar.*
4. *NJUCF Stewardship Grant.*
 - a. *More trees are looking bad. DPU needs to continue watering the trees weekly.*
 - b. *The letter to residents was delivered to all residential addresses.*
 - c. *Joanna and her daughter will try to water the other trees.*
5. *Globe St – Joanna will ask the hospital if they could water the new trees and will offer gator bags.*
6. *South St. Road Project.* Bill walked it with Borough officials and T&M. 8 to 10 trees near E. Bergen are to be taken out as per contract. Bill requested T&M to share the plans with STC. Remedios followed up with Ed Herrman.
7. *English Plaza.* No action has been taken since we made the recommendations 2 years ago. Of the 8 Serviceberries planted there in 2019, only one is in decent shape. 3 have been removed, 3 are dead, and one is dying.
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/P7tdJ8NxG81gct93A>
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/pahFpg1UUPyunmT59>
Remedios sent a follow up email and copied Bob Zuckerman.
8. *Recommended Species List. The website has been updated.*
9. *For what purpose can the Shade Tree Trust Fund be used besides planting trees? For example, equipment used to maintain trees? Suggest updating the ordinance to include tree maintenance among the allowed uses of the funds. Councilmember Facey-Blackwood will follow up.*
10. *Consider changing the ordinance to increase the cost per tree for developers (currently \$500). Find out what a typical tree costs today. Suggest increasing it to \$750. Councilmember Facey-Blackwood will follow up.*
11. *A resident would like to donate a memorial tree. Remedios provided info.*
12. *Eastside Park. Three trees were over pruned, two were memorial trees. Branches were left with almost no leaves.*
13. *National Night Out is Aug. 1. STC will share the table with EC.*

Maintenance/planting requests

1. 25 Oakland St. Resident wants to know when the Pear will be pruned. Received a follow-up inquiry. Remedios will follow up.
2. 92 River St. Resident would like to know the procedure for having a tree planted in the ROW. Received a follow-up inquiry. Remedios will follow up. We can ask the Clerk to put a form on the website for future requests.
3. 130 Bridge Ave on Herbert St. Half of the Red Maple is dead, the sidewalk is lifted. Added it to removal list.
4. 23 Tower Hill Ave. Boris observed that the Norway Maple has a large dead limb over the front yard. Added it to the maintenance list.

5. 86 Madison Ave. Homeowner is requesting a status update about the tree lifting the sidewalk. It was referred to DPU last October. The root flare has outgrown the planting strip. Bill talked to the homeowner, who said he didn't want the sidewalk to go on his property, so serpentine the sidewalk is not an option. Recommend smoothing out the sidewalk – Remedios emailed Terrance.
6. 20 Locust Ave – homeowner nailed [aluminum sheets](#) around the tree, which violates the tree protection ordinance. Remedios referred it to Code Enforcement.
7. 218 Broad St. A neighbor would like to have the crown elevated. Referred to the County STC by DPU.
8. A resident notified STC that there is a leaning evergreen behind 71 Wallace St. It is a private tree. Remedios responded to the resident. The resident will hire a tree expert to evaluate the tree.

Public Comments

Planning/Zoning Board Applications

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. Remedios followed up with Shawna.
2. [The Rail Project](#). The [two southernmost London Planetrees](#) on Bridge Ave are not looking good. Remedios notified Shawna.
3. [Azalea Gardens](#). The applicant changed Red Oaks to Basswood, 3-3.5" caliper. STC is satisfied with the plan.

No Updates

1. STC FAQ on the website has a broken link. Remedios will follow up.
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. The other Willow Oaks may need to be removed too.
3. [Oak at Wawa on W. Front St.](#) There's a big basal cavity, and dieback. The County will remove it. Bill will follow up.
4. Boris noticed that many Zelkovas have crossing branches. Here's [one example](#) at 88 Linden Pl. Should we see if DPU can handle it? Bill will follow up with DPU.
5. [Hazardous trees survey](#). On hold.
6. [White St Parking Lot](#).
 - a. STC will pay to have approximately 6 trees planted. Remedios shared a draft plan. Plan for planting next spring; reserve the trees in early fall.
 - b. When using the Shade Tree Trust Fund, up to \$44,000 can be awarded to a contractor without a bid, according to the Borough Administrator (via Councilmember Mirandi).
7. 44 Linden Pl. - tree leaning. DPU tried to stake it but couldn't move the tree. Bill will take a look.
8. Terrence to update the maintenance list.
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. Terrence
11. Dead tree at BOE building on Tower Hill Ave. Remedios will inform Code Enforcement.
12. 17 John St. The mayor inquired about the sidewalk lift. STC recommendation is for DPU to ask the resident to serpentine the sidewalk around the roots of the tree.
 - a. Per Bill shaving the roots is not a good idea because the main roots are just about 24 inches in the ground.
 - b. There is also a branch growing towards the house that the resident reported; it is on the

maintenance list.

13. 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. Terrence
14. Dublin House. Bricks are lifted by the roots. Bill recommends widening the ring around the tree. Bill will discuss it with DPU. Tree fence is an option.
15. 163 Hudson Ave. Boris observed the [Zelkova](#) has serious dieback. Is the grass around the base preventing water from getting to the roots? Bill will take a look.
16. [Broad St. project](#). Several trees north of White St. may not survive. Another treatment will be done in the fall. Dead branches over the Broadwalk – Bill.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 15 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 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