

Borough of Red Bank
Shade Tree Committee
August 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

Members Present: Bill Brooks, Brigid McCarthy, Remedios Quiroz,
Absent: Samantha Flores-Castillo, Boris Kofman, Debbie Marks, Joanna Rovito
Ex-officio member: Councilmember Nancy Facey-Blackwood
Guests: Joan Wetherwell, 106 Manor Drive; Carmen Talarico, Rector Place

Topics Discussed (updates in *italics*)

1. *July 18 meeting minutes – no quorum for approval.*
2. Training. *Boris attended a webinar.*
3. NJUCF Stewardship Grant.
 - a. *The Black Tupelos at 32 Locust, 123 and 127 Oakland will probably need to be replaced, in addition to the one on McLaren.*
 - b. *The DPU has a new watering tank and the new trees should be watered through October with the last watering taking place before Thanksgiving. Bill Brooks stated that losing 10% of new trees is a normal rate.*
 - c. *Letters to the residents about watering has had a positive response.*
 - d. *Maria Rotolo requested the names of volunteers and hours in connection with the grant. Remedios will compile this information.*
4. Hazardous trees survey. *On hold. Councilmember Facey-Blackwood will follow up.*
5. 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. STC received the plan from T&M. Nine trees are to be removed, but it does not show any replacements. Councilmember Facey-Blackwood will contact Ed Herrman about the replacements either at the same or appropriate locations.*
6. White St Parking Lot. *STC will pay for approximately four trees. STC will be under amount for going out for bid. Planning on planting 4.5" caliper Brownback Southern Magnolias, planting in the Fall.*
7. Shade Tree Trust Fund. *Councilmember Facey-Blackwood reported that the ordinance will be updated to include tree maintenance among the allowed uses of the funds.*
8. *Consider changing the ordinance to increase the cost per tree for developers (currently \$500). Bill Brooks recommends \$750 because that is in keeping with other towns. He will be sharing the Ocean County ordinances.*
9. *Councilmember Facey-Blackwood will check if the Environmental Commission species lists are in sync with the STC list of recommended trees. All trees can't necessarily be native to NJ.*
10. Eastside Park. *Three trees were over pruned, two were memorial trees. Branches were left with almost no leaves. Bill Brooks thinks it was workers from a communication company, probably Verizon.*
11. Mechanic St. Road Program. *STC needs to be looped in on the design.*

Maintenance/planting requests

1. 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. The alternative is to remove it.*
 - 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.*
2. 59 South St. *following on request from residents. Bill Brooks said there are some bark beetle holes. He recommended removing it. It will be done as part of the South Street road project.*
3. 92 River St. *Resident would like to know the procedure for having a tree planted in the ROW. Remedios responded. Remedios will ask the Clerk to put a form on the website for future requests.*
4. 15 High St. *Resident requested removal of dying Norway Maple. DPU removed it.*
5. 276 Broad St. *Resident concerned about the condition of the tree. Remedios referred them to the County STC. (It's been on the removals list since 2020.)*

6. 140 Maple Ave. Homeowner concerned about the sidewalk lift. Bill Brooks suggests asking Terrence to have DPU smooth out the sidewalk with concrete.
7. Dead Dogwood in Riverside Gardens Park. DPU removed it.
8. Dead tree at Avis (Water St.). Remedios referred it to Code Enforcement.

Public Comments

The meeting was suspended to hear Ms. Wetherwell's inquiries. She lives in Red Bank Manor and the management has removed trees and seem to have no plans to replace them. She wanted to know if STC has any leverage and could replace them. It was explained to her that the STC has no jurisdiction over trees on private property.

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**, who said she'd notify the developer.
3. 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**.

No Updates

1. STC FAQ on the website has a broken link. **Remedios** will follow up.
2. Globe St – **Joanna** will ask the hospital if they could water the new trees and will offer gator bags.
3. 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.
4. Oak at Wawa on W. Front St. There's a big basal cavity, and dieback. The County will remove it. **Bill** will follow up.
5. 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.
6. 44 Linden Pl. - tree leaning. DPU tried to stake it but couldn't move the tree. **Bill** will take a look.
7. **Terrence** to update the maintenance list.
8. Eastside Park - Arborvitae planted by contractor has been removed. Need replacement. **Terrence**
9. Dead tree at BOE building on Tower Hill Ave. **Remedios** will inform Code Enforcement.
10. 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**
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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 serpentineing the sidewalk is not an option. Recommend smoothing out the sidewalk – Remedios emailed Terrance.
14. 25 Oakland St. Resident wants to know when the Pear will be pruned. Received a follow-up inquiry. **Remedios** will follow up.
15. 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**.
16. 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. Remedios sent a follow up email and copied Bob Zuckerman. The project engineer is looking into it.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 19 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brigid McCarthy, Acting 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