

Borough of Red Bank
Shade Tree Committee
September 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

Members Present: Bill Brooks (left 8:05), Boris Kofman, Debbie Marks, Brigid McCarthy, Remedios Quiroz

Absent: Samantha Flores-Castillo, Joanna Rovito

Ex-officio member: Councilmember Nancy Facey-Blackwood

Guests: Amy Goldsmith, Councilmember Ben Forest, Kathleen Ott (South St resident)

Topics Discussed (updates in *italics*)

1. *July 18 and August 15 meeting minutes approved.*
2. Training. *Brigid and Boris attended a webinar.*
3. Tree inventory. *Debbie and Boris did Allen Pl, Bodman Pl, W. Front St and Veterans Park.*
4. NJUCF Stewardship Grant.
 - a. The following trees need to be replaced:
 - i. 98 Catherine St (broken, Redbud) - replace elsewhere
 - ii. 18 Marlin Pl. (topped, Tupelo) - replace elsewhere
 - iii. 22 Bank St. (never leafed out, Crabapple)
 - iv. 100 McLaren (dead, Tupelo)
 - v. 32 Locust Ave (dead, Tupelo)
 - vi. 123 Oakland (dead, Tupelo)
 - vii. 127 Oakland (almost dead, Tupelo)
 - viii. 25 Garfield Pl (almost dead, Tupelo)
 - ix. 27 Tower Hill Ave (almost dead, Tupelo)
 - x. 232 Drs. Parker Blvd (almost dead, Redbud)
 - b. Maria Rotolo requested the names of volunteers and hours in connection with the grant. *Remedios provided that information.*
 - c. **Remedios** will contact Terrence about getting the trees from NJTF.
5. Hazardous trees survey. *Councilmember Facey-Blackwood talked with the Borough Manager and CFO. Darren is going to follow up with Bill.*
6. Broad St. Project. *Several trees north of White St. may not survive. Dead branches over the Broadwalk. The contractor examined the trees last week. **Bill** will share the recommendation when it's done.*
7. South St. Road Project. *Nine trees have been removed. Replacements are being planned. Borough officials met with the residents concerned about the removals.*
8. 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. **Bill** will check if spring or fall is the better time.*
9. 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. **Remedios** will follow up.*
10. Eastside Park
 - a. *Arborvitae planted by contractor has been removed. Need replacement. **Remedios** will follow up with **Terrence**.*
 - b. *Three trees were over pruned, one was a memorial tree. Branches were left with almost no leaves. Bill Brooks thinks it was workers from a communication company, probably Verizon. Can add fertilizer to help the trees recover. **Bill** will ask Terrence.*
11. *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. **Remedios** will follow up with **Terrence***
12. Shade Tree Trust Fund. *Councilmember Facey-Blackwood reported that the ordinance to include tree maintenance among the allowed uses of the funds has been introduced and will be reviewed by the Planning Board on 10/12.*

13. Consider changing the ordinance to increase the cost per tree for developers (currently \$500). Councilmember Facey-Blackwood reported that the ordinance to increase it to \$1000 has been introduced and will be reviewed by the Planning Board on 10/12.
14. Mechanic St. Road Program. STC needs to be looped in on the design. Councilmember Facey-Blackwood will follow up on codifying the procedure for sharing the plans with STC.
15. Councilmember Facey-Blackwood asked the Environmental Commission if the species list is in sync with the STC list of recommended trees.
16. Discussion about planting trees on private property. Bill pointed out that in Fair Haven homeowners are asking the town to remove them when the time comes.

Maintenance/planting requests

1. 92 River St. The homeowner proposed planting a Japanese cherry, 2.5" caliper, one-year guarantee. Considering that the homeowner is funding the planting and will be taking care of it, STC approved the request.
2. 163 Hudson Ave. Boris observed the Zelkova has serious dieback. Tree removed by DPU.
3. 86 Madison Ave. Homeowner is concerned about the tree (Pin Oak) 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 Terrence. The homeowner is inquiring about the status. Bill is concerned that the tree is too big for the location, but there are no signs of decline. Over Bill's recommendation to remove the tree, the committee decided to retain it. Remedios will contact Terrence with the recommendation.
4. 25 Oakland St. Resident wants to know when the Pear will be pruned. Received a follow-up inquiry. Remedios will follow up.
5. 140 Maple Ave. Homeowner concerned about the sidewalk lift. Bill suggests asking Terrence to have DPU smooth out the sidewalk with concrete. Remedios will follow up.
6. 12 Drummond Ave. Resident contacted DPU, is concerned about the sidewalk lift. The tree (Red Maple) looks very healthy. The sidewalk lift is at most 3" at one corner. The homeowner can smooth out the sidewalk with concrete. Remedios will follow up.
7. 117 Leonard St. Resident filed a maintenance request with DPU, concerned about the Honeylocust. Boris replied to DPU that the tree is already on the STC removals list.
8. 36 Madison Ave. Boris observed that the Crimson King Maple has severe dieback. There are cavities where limbs have been pruned. Seems it's going to be hazardous soon if not already. Will look at it next spring when it leafs out.
9. 43 South St. Homeowner is concerned about the sidewalk lift. The tree (Japanese Zelkova) is very healthy, the lift is minimal and can be smoothed out with concrete.
10. 53 South St. Resident filed a request with DPU, would like the branches on the tree (Red Maple) cut. She states that the branches are caught in the wires and is worried about it becoming a hazard. Boris reported that a few twigs are near the service wires. Remedios will follow up.
11. 131 Oakland St. Resident requested a tree. Added to the list.
12. 15 Hudson Ave. Homeowner inquired how to go about removing a Sycamore between her property and her neighbor's. Remedios will respond that STC has no jurisdiction over private trees.
13. Bill talked to JCP&L. They're planning to remove the hazardous trees on Drs. Parker Blvd.

Public Comments

1. Kathleen Ott inquired whether the stumps of the trees removed on South St. will be removed. Bill responded that it will be grinded. Nancy will find out when.
Q: what trees will be planted. Bill: smaller trees under wires, larger otherwise.
2. Councilmember Forest thanked STC for our work.

Planning/Zoning Board Applications

1. 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. Remedios will follow up on the status.
2. 13 Worthley St. The removed tree needs to be replaced by the homeowner. The new house is in place. Remedios followed up with Shawna.

No Updates

1. Globe St – **Joanna** will ask the hospital if they could water the new trees and will offer gator bags.
2. County trees. Bill is working with the County Div. of Shade Tree on getting hazardous trees removed.
 - a. 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.
 - b. Oak at Wawa on W. Front St. The County will remove it.
3. 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.
4. 44 Linden Pl. - tree leaning. DPU tried to stake it but couldn't move the tree. **Bill** will take a look.
5. **Terrence** to update the maintenance list.
6. Dead tree at BOE building on Tower Hill Ave. **Remedios** will inform Code Enforcement.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Procedure for requesting to plant a tree in the Right of Way. **Remedios** will work with the Clerk to post the procedure on the STC website and create a form for requests.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 17 at 7:00 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Boris Kofman, Secretary