

Borough of Red Bank
Shade Tree Committee
January 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

Members Present: Boris Kofman, Debbie Marks, Remedios Quiroz, David Schmetterer (all via Zoom)

Absent: Bill Brooks

Ex-officio member: Councilman Erik Yngstrom

Guests:

Topics Discussed (updates in *italics*)

1. *December 15, 2020 meeting minutes approved.*
2. *Officer election: Remedios - Chair, Bill - Vice-Chair, Boris - Secretary. Unanimous vote.*
3. *CEUs, Boris attended a webinar.*
4. *Trees Roots & Sidewalk Conflict webinar - putting foam below concrete is effective and inexpensive. Boris to send more details to Erik.*
5. *Tree Inventory Update - start Zone 1 in the spring.*
6. *NJUCF Stewardship Grant. \$30K has been awarded. Red Bank will need to request an extension, as the grant work period will end before the final inspection. Erik and Cliff stated that planting will be done in the spring 2021. Bids will be solicited early next year. Cliff is working with one contractor and will be contacting another one for March or April planting. He is working to have the grant extended for the inspection period. Remedios will follow up on when the decision will be made.*
7. *Bellhaven. From Cliff: The dead tree will be replaced; trees may also be planted outside the park near the road. Screening will be planted in front of Locust Landing along the new access road. STC recommends waiting until the other trees leaf out to see their condition.*
8. *Hazardous trees survey - STC funds can be used to hire a contractor to do the survey. Bill recommends Aspen Tree Service. Erik will follow up.*
9. *Eastside Park. Two Willow Oaks near the structure need to have the soil replaced. Per Ziad, "the landscaper has not done their part yet."*
10. *East Bergen PI Road Program. From Laura Neumann: the trees will be planted in March.*
11. *Marine Park redesign. Erik to forward the concept design to STC.*
12. *Per Boris - we removed 110 trees this year, and planted 35, a loss of 75. Over the last 3 years, we removed 217, planted 80, for a net loss of 137. How do we fix this? Remedios met with Erik.*
13. *Ziad shared the plans for the next phase of improvements on Eastside Park, Mohawk Pond, and Count Basie Park; Remedios sent STC comments and recommendations.*
14. *NJ Tree Recovery Program - up to 1,000 seedlings available; do we want to participate this year? Decided not to participate this year due to the pandemic.*
15. *Application for 2020 Tree City USA Certification - submitted.*
16. *NJ Annual Accomplishments Report - Remedios to review.*
17. *Map of Red Bank tree inventory on the website - updated.*
18. *224 Maple Ave - Owner of the property called to request for a species of tree to plant on their lawn. Remedios referred him to the list of recommended tree species that's on the STC website.*
19. *Shrewsbury Ave project. From Cliff: \$1M grant - plans are still being worked out; plans to plant trees.*
20. *Broad St. project. No updated plans yet.*
21. *White St. parking lot. From Cliff: plans to build a solar roof over the median that will provide renewable power and shade.*

Maintenance/planting requests

1. *Public access path at the end of Bank St. (River's Edge) – The developer planted 15 red oaks along the path. Four appear dead, the rest are stressed out. There are also mulch volcanoes. Remedios and Boris met onsite with the developer Charles Farouk 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. Farouk agreed to plant the 4 trees in the spring. The 4 dying trees have been removed. Dina is following up. CFO reported that no money has been deposited into the trust fund for this project. Replacement trees have not been planted. Erik will follow up. Ziad is working with the new Planning/Zoning Officer.*
2. *County trees. Bill is working with the County Div. of Shade Tree on getting hazardous trees removed. The County will prioritize the removal of the 2 Willow Oaks on Harding and a tree on Broad*

across from Foodtown. 276 Broad St - potentially hazardous Linden - **Bill** will ask the County to evaluate. *The tree across from Foodtown is scheduled for removal this week.*

3. Trees damaged on Worthley. A lot of improperly cut, damaged and broken branches, apparently during the road repaving. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/qqvCoFK59NsMoE4k8> **DPU** should prune them.
4. 9-11 Allen Pl - owner offers to pay for replacement trees. STC is ok with it. They are offering to plant one replacement tree on the lawn. STC is asking for two replacement trees. Erik got an update from the Borough Prosecutor: the homeowner was given 30 days from Nov. 3 to plant one tree on the lawn, using the species from the STC list. *Will be planted in the spring.*
5. 26 Oldfield Pl - private tree, large dead limbs over the sidewalk. *Code Enforcement said it's not over the sidewalk.*
6. Trail between Drs Parker Blvd and Bank St along the Swimming River. Hazardous oak observed by Bill and Boris. *Bill doesn't have a recommendation. Erik will follow up.*
7. Tree grates need to be cut. *One grate has been cut.*
8. 44 Linden Pl. - tree leaning. **Erik** asked DPU to stake it.
9. **Cliff** will update the Maintenance List.

Public Comments

1. *None*

Planning/Zoning Board Applications

1. *None*

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 16, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Boris Kofman, Secretary

CC: Shade Tree Committee, Mayor & Council, Business Administrator Ziad Shehady, Public Utilities Director Cliff Keen, Borough Engineer Gregory Valesi, Borough Clerk Pamela Borghi