

Borough of Red Bank  
Shade Tree Committee  
December 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes

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

Members Present: Bill Brooks, Boris Kofman, Mike Kosberg, Debbie Marks, Remedios Quiroz

Absent:

Ex-officio member: Ed Zipprich

**Topics Discussed** (updates in *italics*)

1. *November 15 meeting minutes approved.*
2. Damaged trees – Subject to fine per tree protection ordinance.
  - a. Leighton – someone had cut a root of a big London Planetree while replacing a sidewalk. Code Enforcement involved. Currently in litigation. Ed pointed out to Frank Woods the penalties specified for damaging borough trees. *The case has been closed, with no penalty for damaging the tree.*
  - b. Spring St. (51 Tower Hill Ave) - The contractor used a power tiller completely through the root systems of 3 Boro trees while replacing the sidewalk. *There will be no penalties for damaging the trees.*
3. Tree Bank. Investigate where there was no room to plant a tree to pay into a tree bank. – need an ordinance. **Bill** will bring a copy of the ordinance from other towns for the next meeting. Bill is going to work with Mayor Menna.
4. White St streetscaping. *Debbie reached out to RiverCenter to see what landscaping is planned. Nothing at this point.*
5. Zone 1 inventory update – *Finished.*
6. *Marine Park construction - a mature London Planetree was removed.*
7. *Bill reported that Red and Black Oaks are susceptible to a fungus. A mature tree in Fair Haven, with no visible external issues, fell due to core rot. Mature Red Bank trees, especially Red Oaks and Sycamores should be examined. Bill is working with Cliff.*

**Maintenance/planting requests**

1. 251 Mechanic - Road Program tree is dead. Notified T&M. Tree has been removed. The replacement should be on High St. **Remedios** will contact T&M.
2. 55-57 South St – Homeowner concerned about sidewalk lift by Red Maple, requesting a meeting. Mike took a look. Debbie took a look. The homeowner wants the tree removed since they plan on opening widening the apron (entrance to the driveway) to provide another parking space. The driveway is shared. The tree is healthy, no reason to remove it. Remedios notified the homeowner. The homeowner still would like to have the tree removed and requested a meeting. We asked Glenn Carter for clarification and advice. Debbie talked with Code Enforcement and Glenn. The homeowner said he was going to remove the tree. Glenn told the homeowner not to remove the tree.
3. 185-187 Mechanic St – resident concerned that the Norway Maple is diseased and dropping dead branches. **Bill** and **Mike** will take a look. Boris took a look. It doesn't seem to be an eminent hazard, but there's die-back and leaf scorch. Suggest keeping an eye on it for now and see how it looks in the spring.
4. Public access path at end of Bank St. – The developer planted 15 red oaks along the path. Four appear dead, the rest are stressed out. There are also mulch volcanos. **Remedios** will notify Ed Herman (T&M).
5. 3 Brown Pl. – homeowner would like a tree in the planting strip. The strip is only about 2'. **Bill** will find out the ROW to see if it's possible to plant inside the sidewalk.
6. 17 Washington St. Resident believes the tree is diseased. Boris took a look. It's a crabapple, about 6-in DBH. It's been severely pruned and has exfoliating bark, but no signs of disease. Did minor pruning. **Mike** will take a look.
7. 69 East Bergen Pl – homeowner states that the tree has a few branches that are loose causing hazardous conditions. Boris and Bill took a look. Placed on removal list. The tree has a red X mark.
8. Garfield Pl - Zelkovas next to Walgreens are dead or dying. **Remedios** will contact T&M.

9. Pruning & removals – Remedios sent Cliff the list. DPU removed all except 69 E. Bergen and 63 Madison (JCP&L needs to remove the guy-wire first). The rest need to be contracted out. Remedios sent the list to Cliff and will follow up with Maria Rotolo about the PO.
10. N. Prospect Ave – resident emailed about the trees being removed on the bulkhead. Stanley stated that one tree was bad, but both trees needed to be taken out since the contractors needed access to build the bulkhead. He also stated that one of the trees would in time, jeopardize a retaining wall. Stanley said he spoke with both homeowners at the end of the street on the river. Remedios will follow up with the resident.
11. Fall planting – Got 3 quotes. NJTF was selected as the lowest. Allocated \$3500, enough for 11 trees (7 Black Tupelos, 4 Serviceberries). NJTF could not find the trees in the nurseries any more. Will wait until the spring to plant. PO has been issued and can be used in the spring.
12. Come up with a selection of trees for typical small lots that the Planning&Zoning Dept can give to applicants. – Bill & Mike.
13. Bill reported that a mature American Elm on Pinkney Rd. will need to be removed due to interference with electric utilities. (County jurisdiction)

### **Planning/Zoning Board Applications**

1. The Courtyard at Red Bank. Propose Green Giant Arborvitae, 10-12' height, 5' on center. STC is OK with it. STC recommends 2 trees on Prospect Ave or on the lawn. Zig proposed Yellowwood. STC subsequently recommended 3 trees on Prospect Ave. Mr. Pannek pointed out that the front yard has a lot of landscaping and the sidewalk would be less than 4' if trees were planted. Mike agreed. Instead of planting three, Ms. Carvalho proposed contributing \$500 to the Shade Tree Fund in order to plant 2 trees elsewhere in the boro. Remedios said that it would cost about \$700 to plant 2 trees. Ms. Carvalho said they will check with the applicant and get back to us. Mike made a motion to accept \$700 in lieu of planting trees there, seconded by Remedios. Motion passed unanimously. The condo association approved a donation for \$750. Zoning Board approved the application. The Zoning Board decided that it was not appropriate to take a donation from the applicant. Debbie contacted the ZB Attorney for a clarification. Ed will follow up.
2. 116-118 Chestnut St – Architectural plans show 4 trees on Oakland St, while there are none in the Landscape Plan. Appears there's room for 2. Bill will ask Dina for paper plans.
3. Hampton Inn – no trees along sidewalk. Room for about 5 trees. Bill will ask Dina for paper plans.
4. Ray Rap (36 Harding Rd/Hudson Ave) – no landscape plan yet.

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Boris Kofman, Secretary

CC: Shade Tree Committee, Mayor & Council, Borough Administrator Stanley Sickels, Planning and Zoning Director Glenn Carter, Public Utilities Director Cliff Keen, Borough Engineer Bill White, Borough Clerk Pamela Borghi