

FAIR HAVEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 3, 2024, 7:30pm HYBRID: In person at Borough Hall and via Zoom

1. Call to Order @ 7:33pm

2. Sunshine Law Notice, K. Larsen

3. Roll Call:

Present: Christian Larsen, Michael D'Angelo, Michael Hoey, Christopher McCabe, Jill Sullivan, Bonnie Torcivia, Leah Beganie, Borough Secretary Krystie Larsen, Councilman Brian Olson

Absent: Peter D'Agati, Kevin McGovern

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Chairperson and Vice Chairperson Election

Jill Sullivan nominated Chris Larsen to be Chairman. No other nominations were made. Roll call vote; all in favor.

Chris Larsen nominated Mike D'Angelo to be Vice Chairman. No other nominations were made. Roll call vote; all in favor.

6. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (December 6, 2023). All in favor.

7. Project Updates

a. NJUCF Tree Inventory Grant: Jill Sullivan

J. Sullivan updated received an proposal from Davey Tree for a tree inventory and software. As expected, the cost is more expensive vs. original proposal two years ago. K. Larsen and J. Sullivan found the demo software "Tree Keeper" to be user friendly, but will review with Borough end-users when appropriate. J. Sullivan believes the Borough should prioritize sections of trees based on cost vs. the \$15,000 grant amount and will work with Nick Poruchynsky to prioritize (perhaps River Oaks and McCarter Park, up for discussion). Davey's proposal is \$49,000 for an entire tree inventory of Fair Haven. The grant amount of \$15,000 would cover the inventory of 1,000 trees and the software for the first year. J. Sullivan reviewed the key data fields collected and customization. Davey estimates 5,000 trees in Fair Haven based on canopy imagery. She suggested that volunteers can do a gut check on the number of trees by neighborhood and this exercise could be used towards grant matching hours. Councilman Olson asked if it was a one-time investment? J. Sullivan said yes, as long as it is properly maintained; the software is an annual ongoing cost. Municipalities can't apply for another grant until this inventory is completed and then she believes it is every other year.

b. Resident Tree Buying Program: Jill Sullivan

The Spring Resident Tree buying program will launch with Fernbrook Nursery in March. Their inventory of trees is lower vs. Fall selection: 3 flowering trees, 5 evergreens and 5 shade trees. Orders will be due at the end of March and planting will occur in May. C. McCabe suggested asking Borough Tree Expert to review the tree selections. L. Beganie asked for a picture for marketing this program on social media. M. D'Angelo suggested a contest for all tree purchasers and to announce the winner on Arbor Day.

c. Green Team and Natural Area Update: Bonnie Torcivia

B. Torcivia showed the recycling sticker that the Green Team ("GT") distributed to all Fair Haven households. GT is planning another sport equipment swap. Knollwood School Junior GT is working on a homegrown Oak Tree project and signage for the Pollinator Garden in the Third Street Trail. The FH Natural Area Committee planted bareroot trees and is working on cell tower area.

d. Community Outreach: Leah Beganie

L. Beganie noted 177 followers on social media. She will create a post for the Resident Tree Buying program.

e. Christmas Tree Replacement: Mike Hoey

M. Hoey updated the Commission that the existing Christmas tree and nearby Locust tree will be removed by a contractor and the soil needs to be remediated. He is waiting for information on removal timing from Administrator Casagrande. J. Sullivan will connect M. Hoey with Fernbrook to discuss Christmas tree options, if any. B. Torcivia researched a couple nurseries and estimates \$600 for the tree plus delivery, installation and remediation of soil.

f. Salem Oak Trees: Bonnie Torcivia

B. Torcivia is trying to connect with Principal Schwartz to plant the Salem Oaks on Arbor Day. She suggested The Arbor Day Foundation Community Tree Recovery program to take advantage of free seedlings. M. D'Angelo and C. McCabe noted in past years many seedlings died, so they are reluctant to pursue. B. Torcivia suggested coordinating with the Natural Area. C. Larsen asked K. Larsen to apply for 100 seedlings.

g. McCarter Park Tree Review: Chris Larsen

K. Larsen circulated a memo from Shari Spero with her findings from her site visit to McCarter Park. C. Larsen met with Shari Spero, Nick Poruchynsky and Dave Karl at McCarter Park to review three large Oak trees. C. Larsen said this is an opportunity for STC to suggest the Borough replace removals with new trees. He suggested STC may donate a Resident Tree Buying program tree from the Shade Tree Trust, if the Commission would like to pursue.

h. Tree Removal Permit Data: Krystie Larsen

K. Larsen advised there is no data for 2024 yet. L. Beganie asked for cumulative data for 2023 to put in a graphic for social media.

i. STC Annual Report: Chris Larsen

C. Larsen asked members to send any edits to the Annual Plan to K. Larsen by Friday.

j. Planning/Discussion of 2024 Projects and STC Calendar: Chris Larsen, Peter D'Agati

P. D'Agati absent; C. Larsen reminded STC members to be cognizant of calendar items and will work to stay ahead. B. Torcivia asked if the Commission would be interested in a Volunteer Day? J. Sullivan thinks it would dilute all the other Volunteer Days hosted by other committees/commissions. C. McCabe noted STC members already attend the Third Street Trail and Natural Area clean-ups.

k. Council and Tree Preservation Ordinance Update

B. Olson asked if the Commission had a point of view on a deer management program? STC has not discussed this as a Commission.

B. Olson recognizes the Tree Preservation Ordinance is a priority for STC and will work with Council to get through it, hopefully by February or March. M. D'Angelo responded that the STC has been working on this for 2.5 years and hopes the ordinance can be adopted soon, noting there is lost revenue for the Borough and the Borough must follow-through with enforcement of this ordinance.

8. Proposed New Agenda Items

- Arbor Day

9. Public Participation

Mark Olson asked if STC would support a Volunteer Day? STC consensus is yes, members would attend and support.

10. Adjournment @ 9:17pm

***** Next Shade Tree Commission Meeting is February 7, 2024*****