

FAIR HAVEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 2023, 7:30pm HYBRID: In person at Borough Hall and via Zoom

1. Call to Order @ 7:35pm

2. Sunshine Law Notice, C. Larsen

3. Roll Call:

Present: Christian Larsen, Michael D'Angelo, Peter D'Agati, Christopher McCabe, Jill Sullivan, Bonnie Torcivia, Councilwoman Cole, Borough Secretary Krystie Larsen

Absent: Leah Beganie, Michael Hoey, Kevin McGovern, Councilwoman Neff

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (September 6, 2023): Approved, all in favor.

6. Project Updates

a. Updates from Borough Tree Specialist, Bill Brooks

Monmouth County Shade Tree Commission will remove seven trees on Ridge Road (from Harding Road to Fair Haven Road) that have died, prior to Thanksgiving. Stumps will be grinded at a later date. The County was unaware of Fair Haven's tree removal on Ridge Road due to a sidewalk project (from Harrison Avenue to Oaklawn Road). B. Brooks was requested to review dead trees on Ridge Road from Harding Road to Fair Haven Road by Assistant Engineer Poruchynsky. Councilwoman Cole asked for STC to be included in this correspondence. B. Brooks noted there may be funds available for line trimming if the Borough has any suspect trees. B. Brooks met with new contacts at JCP&L (due to retirements).

B. Brooks noted there is an ongoing battle with bacterial leaf scorch- it is contagious; trees may be kept alive, but will inevitably die. Scientists say that there is no treatment, but can maintain by trimming out dangerous dead pieces -- prune for safety and normal palliative care for trees. Pin Oaks seem to have a worse problem with it, followed by Red and Black Oaks (most susceptible vs. White Oaks). P. D'Agati asked if there is any preventive care? B. Brooks said not at this time. B. Torcivia asked if leaves falling and being blown around this season will cause it to spread? B. Brooks to look into the science of BLS.

b. 2024 Meeting Dates, Chris Larsen

C. Larsen made a motion to continue STC meetings once a month, meeting at 7:30pm first Wednesday of the month excluding July recess. All in favor.

c. NJUCF Tree Inventory Grant, Jill Sullivan

J. Sullivan said the award is expected to be announced in mid-late October.

d. Green Team, Natural Area and Environmental Roundtable Update, Bonnie Torcivia

B. Torcivia gave a summary of the Environmental Commission Roundtable meeting, noting discussion regarding Stormwater Management (including a water story of Fair Haven) and Deer Mitigation. The Green Team hosted Bike to School Day at Knollwood and Sickles schools and started working on the Third Street Pollinator garden. The Natural Area Committee met with Monmouth County Parks System to figure out a plan for the cell tower area. It has been cleared out, but there are a lot of invasives still lurking, hoping to work on it in the spring.

e. Community Outreach, Leah Beganie

In L. Beganie's absence, K. Larsen gave her update that STC has 173 followers and a few additional tree fact graphics that will be posted.

f. Resident Tree Buying Program, Jill Sullivan

J. Sullivan advised that all 56 ordered trees were planted over two days last week. Overall the program received good feedback and J. Sullivan is hoping the STC will sponsor this program again in the spring. STC member consensus is to continue the program. B. Torcivia asked if Fernbrook Nursery grows Christmas trees, potentially for Memorial Park. J. Sullivan to follow-up. B. Torcivia suggested to tie it in with Arbor Day planting.

g. Christmas Tree Replacement, Mike Hoey

In M. Hoey's absence, Councilwoman Cole said the Borough is looking into tree removal quotes for the existing Memorial Park trees that would be in the way of the new Christmas tree. She noted that Engineer Gardella cautioned against using cables to secure a cut tree due to safety hazard.

h. Salem Oak Locations, Bonnie Torcivia

B. Torcivia met with Principal Schwartz to discuss McCarter Park planting locations. Principal Schwartz would like an October planting, to coincide with the month of respect. B. Torcivia is hoping for two Salem Oaks in McCarter Park and one in Williams, Albert and Robards Park, as detailed in the memo K. Larsen sent to the Governing Body on October 2 for STC. Councilwoman Cole asked how the trees would be protected at the parks? B. Torcivia thinks a small fence for the first 18 months, then evaluate depending how fast the trees grow. Shade Tree members would plant the trees, but needs the Borough to do the markouts.

i. Tree Removal Permit Data, Krystie Larsen

STC reviewed the data. C. McCabe noted he went to Little Silver Borough for removal of 14 trees at his mom's house and they don't have restrictions.

j. Council and Tree Preservation Ordinance Update, Councilwoman Cole

Councilwoman Cole advised that the Tree Preservation Ordinance is still being reviewed by the Mayor and she is hoping for an update at the next Council meeting. She thanked STC for doing a great job and suggested the Commission begin thinking about their annual report (forward thinking and accomplishments).

7. Proposed New Agenda Items

- Annual Report

8. Public Participation

None

9. Adjournment @8:24pm

Shade Tree Commission Mission Statement:

Fair Haven trees are an important resource for all our residents. The trees' presence is aesthetically pleasing, is beneficial to our physical and mental health, adds value to our properties, and supports the overall well-being of the varied ecosystems which surround our Borough. It is our mission to preserve, protect and expand this urban forest in order that these benefits will still be available to future generations. To this end, we will develop a healthy, safe and sustainable shade tree inventory in the public areas of our municipality. With a focus on the systematic protection of existing and new plantings, we will work to maximize the environmental and socioeconomic benefits of our community trees while minimizing the cost and liability associated with poor quality inventory.

***** Next Shade Tree Commission Meeting is November 1, 2023*****