

FAIR HAVEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021, 7:30pm

VIA ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85298341755>

1. Call to Order @ 7:34pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice, D. Paolo
3. Roll Call: Present: McCabe, Larsen, Paolo, Sullivan, Beganie, Reid, Neff

Absent: D'Angelo

Paolo proposed voting on 10 of 12 months in 2022 to have meetings. Omit July/August, otherwise every first Wednesday of the month on Zoom at 7:30pm.

4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Introduction of New Commission Members: Beganie and Reid have been moved from alternate members to full-commission members. New alternate members going through channels of approval.
6. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (JULY 14, 2021) – Yes, all in favor.
7. Project Updates

a. Salem White Oak Seedlings (Paolo)

STC is engaged with the Recreation and Natural Area Committees to find a temporary and permanent home for the white oak. Ideal spot is in Fair Haven Fields, near the tennis court, but it may be earmarked for a hitting wall. Another potential location is the Bird Sanctuary, but Borough Arborist Brooks is not as in favor of this location. Arborist supports 5-10 years in temporary pot to flourish, then DPW will use a forklift to move it. Was Denormandie Park considered as a location? The tree needs 100 foot canopy open space.

b. Kwanzan Cherry Trees on Fair Haven Rd. (Paolo)

Agenda item on Paolo, will work on advising Council.

c. Green Initiative (Reid)

Green Team working on educating and having more of a presence in the community. Possibly partnering with PTA for a table at HarvestFest and in schools. Green Team Chair Kelly Flanagan is working with the Borough Facilities team on energy efficiencies for the new buildings. Council will approve the budget for the new buildings, and Councilwoman Neff will advocate for landscape in this forum. As a member of the Planning Board, Paolo is able to advocate for greenery in town plans. Reid would like to get the roles and responsibilities of STC prominently featured and work on branding.

d. Social Media (Beganie)

Beganie working on graphics for social media sites and created a Later.com account to help with timely posting. Looking for more content; possible role for new STC members/alternates.

e. Tree Risk Management Program (Sullivan)

NJ Urban Forestry grant applications require a tree inventory plan (which STC now has approved through 2024), CEU credits, 1 volunteer and 1 employee assigned. The process is complicated so looking to complete for next year. There are two grants available and Sullivan believes the second grant for up to \$50,000 is within reach for Fair Haven. This grant will aid the Borough in getting a tree risk assessment and inventory. It is a large undertaking, so needs a larger committee and ideally someone with grant writing experience. Red Bank Tree Inventory system is a great example to look at, which Arborist Brooks is working on obtaining. Councilman Rodriguez organized student volunteers to train and start the inventory with Arborist Brooks, one neighborhood at a time. STC is responsible for overseeing trees in public spaces.

f. Buttonwood Replanting

Elevated to Council level, no update.

g. Administrative – CEU's/Five Year Plan

STC has a few credits from Paolo and Sullivan. Paolo asked each member to complete one credit to help reach the total needed (8) – videos/training are online, on-demand .

h. Website Page, One-pager content

Reid circulated a draft with a new background. Paolo and Reid will discuss offline and get it on the Borough website.

i. Big Tree Hunt results, ongoing effort?

Tree Hunt is an opportunity to create buzz for STC giveaway in the spring. Reid suggested placing a plaque in front of the winning tree in Denormandie Park; all in favor. K. Larsen to research vendors.

j. NJ "Treasure Our Trees" license plates

Paolo thanked Dr. D'Angelo for the information on the plates.

k. Tree Giveaway Update

Hance Road was the winner. Arborist Brooks and Paolo met with the resident to determine right tree/place. There will be two Liberty Elm trees on either side of walkway to avoid right of way, spring planting. Homeowner is responsible for maintenance. Sullivan questioned if there was budget for two more trees, 1 Sickles School and 1 Knollwood School, to commemorate construction. Paolo believes there will be budget, as it is approximately \$4,500 for 2021. Perhaps STC will receive more funds from the Community Appeal. K. Larsen to find out when the appeal will take place. C. Larsen suggested using the Community Appeal as content and promotion for STC social media accounts.

I. Updates from Borough Arborist, Bill Brooks

Arborist Brooks suggested Commission members look at 81 Fair Haven Road before the trees come down. It is an example of what happens to trees that are not properly cared for: snow plows damaged the trees, then became diseased with carpenter ants.

8. Public Participation (3 attendees)

B. Torcivia suggested looking at Bicentennial Hall plaque as a reference for DeNormandie tree. She nominated a tree on Hance Road for heritage; the official was complimentary of Fair Haven trees and certified measurement. She thinks the public should look at all trees on public and private property.

9. Proposed New Agenda Items

- Plaque at Denormandie tree winner
- Sickles and Knollwood School tree giveaway
- Annual Appeal social media presence

10. Adjournment @ 8:30pm