

# FAIR HAVEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION (“STC”) MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 5, 2022, 7:30pm via Zoom

1. Call to Order @7:34pm

2. Sunshine Law Notice, D. Paolo

3. Roll Call

Present: Beganie, D’Agati, D’Angelo, Hoey, McCabe, Paolo, Reid, Sullivan, Councilwoman Laline Neff, Councilwoman Tracy Cole, Borough Liaison K. Larsen

Absent: C. Larsen

Nominations for 2022 Chairperson of STC: M. D’Angelo nominated D. Paolo, P. D’Agati seconded; all in favor.

Nominations for 2022 Vice Chairperson of STC: D. Paolo nominated M. D’Angelo, L. Beganie seconded; all in favor.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (December 1, 2021)

J. Sullivan made a motion to approve. All in favor.

6. Project Updates

a. Green Initiative, Sustainable Jersey credit opportunities for STC (Reid)

There are 5-6 different Sustainable Jersey items STC can help with obtaining. Reid sent the summary of items to D. Paolo and will circulate to all Commission members ahead of the next meeting. L. Neff thinks 40 of the 160 Sustainable points can come from STC. Rumson has a tree planting program and documentation that Fair Haven can adopt.

b. Social Media (Beganie)

Currently at 80 Instagram followers. Posting on Fair Haven Moms and Dads FaceBook page more often. K. Hoey volunteered to help and would like to post kid-friendly graphics to engage with schools and kids more. R. Reid suggested trying a monthly focus and posting various content around that topic. T. Cole suggested the Big Tree Hunt is good social media content.

c. Tree Inventory (Sullivan)

DEP contact forwarded a list of software options. J. Sullivan created a google doc of the info and is trying to narrow the search for viable candidates. Free options are limited and seem for smaller projects like one street or one park, not an entire town. Next step is researching pricing and conducting demos. Sullivan suggested that given the scale of the project, perhaps splitting it into two is more feasible and either divvy up work by volunteer type (ask other Commissions and community members to help) or by neighborhood/park. Sullivan wondered if there was any budget for this project or perhaps grants available? L. Neff suggested researching Sustainable Jersey grant opportunities for funding. A member of the Green Team has grant writing experience if help is needed. She also said increased fees/penalties being discussed for the Tree Ordinance amendment can help offset costs for these tools. Sullivan believes the software should help achieve multiple goals of STC: helping to identify trees, risk management, logging trees, reporting and viewing optionality.

d. Administrative – CEU's/Five Year Plan (Paolo)

2021 CEU credits completed. K. Larsen to send D. Paolo Tree City USA and DEP UCF annual reporting timeline and documents. T. Cole asked if either was the same as the five-year strategic plan? K. Larsen to research and add to February agenda. D'Agati offered to help with the updating the five-year plan.

e. Plaque at Denormandie Park (Reid)

K. Larsen to resend plaque vendor information to A. Reid.

f. Kwanzan Cherry Tree Giveaway on Fair Haven Road (D'Agati)

P. D'Agati said his next step is to get pricing on 40 trees. L. Neff volunteered to be first home for planting and suggested also targeting two new construction homes next door. She asked if STC should postpone the one-third replacement plan of cherry trees on Fair Haven Road and rather do the extension planting of cherries on Fair Haven Road? D. Paolo is writing an opinion paper to Council regarding the replacement plan on behalf of the STC to Council. D'Agati believes planting the new trees first would be a good test case the new trees can grow (to those hesitant to take down the beginning one-third of trees).

g. Tree Ordinance Review (D'Angelo)

The subcommittee met twice to discuss the Fair Haven Tree Ordinance and ideas to incorporate some of Rumson's language into it. Hot button issues: appropriate mitigation plan, increasing fees, penalties and enforcement. The next step is for D'Angelo and Paolo to meet with Borough Tree Specialist Bill Brooks to review the nuances. Within the next couple months, we expect a new ordinance to be enacted. Town attorney will assist in the writing, appreciate any STC member input. K. Hoey asked if there is any opposition to changing the ordinance? D. Paolo responded there is a lot of traction/enthusiasm from

residents to update the ordinance. L. Neff believes that integrating the Land Use committee in this process has been essential. K. Hoey asked if the topic should be advertised on social media? L. Neff would rather wait until it gets to a draft status with Council and then solicit feedback. T. Cole suggested having a “tree bank” – if you can’t replant in the same location, bank the investment in a separate account that would be administered by STC to replant in desired areas. Legal guidance to not distinguish between homeowner and builder, so wording must surround the project vs. the owner. L. Beganie asked if “drip line” language would be incorporated? M. D’Angelo said it is, but is an enforcement issue. T. Cole to reach out to K. Larsen to discuss the process/chain of events regarding enforcement at Borough Hall. She suggested incorporating best practice language and ways to mitigate damage to trees in drip line areas. D. Paolo agreed and said they are tasked with having very descriptive and specific language through the ordinance.

h. Sportsman Field east tree line (Paolo)

No new updates.

i. Fair Haven Fields Natural Area firewood project (McCabe)

McCabe still gathering information on the project, speaking with DPW and other committees. T. Cole offered to help facilitate this project.

j. 2022 Big Tree Hunt (Paolo)

No official date scheduled for 2022; 2021 was April 1 (then May). There are many interested volunteers in town nominating and documenting trees. Should be a good social media project and way to incorporate kids to finding big trees. K. Hoey volunteered to help with this project. L. Neff referred to Madison, NJ marketing material as a good example. STC website should also include a list of suggested trees to plant.

k. Updates from Borough Tree Specialist, Bill Brooks

JCP&L project over, so Davey Tree Company is no longer in town. Aspen Tree Company will take over tree work on Ridge Road near sub-station at Fair Haven Fields.

## 7. Public Participation

Bonnie Torcivia is glad the Tree Ordinance is being reviewed. She suggested Madison and Florham Park as other great ordinance examples. Previously, D. Paolo thought the overall tree canopy could be calculated based on a coverage ratio, how many tree planted per year as a goal in order to be a tree planting Commission. Sustainable Jersey has a goal of 40 trees planted per year on their application; is that feasible? K. Larsen said there is a record at Town Hall of trees suggested to be planted with homeowners who remove trees. Ms. Torcivia asked about new tree plantings on public property? L. Neff suggested the Tree Inventory tool should account for this. J. Sullivan wondered if 40 was the correct

number? Tree inventory software should aid in having a long-term planting plan. C. McCabe said at previous Arbor Day celebrations, 200 seedlings were given by the state, and if 100 were planted that would more than suffice the quota of new tree plantings a year.

Stephanie Rapp agrees with the “tree bank” idea Councilwoman Cole introduced for the Tree Ordinance. Can the fee structure be done on a sliding scale based on how many trees the applicant is taking down? M. D’Angelo said that was possible. She suggested D. Paolo speak to David Joye at the Board of Education regarding the Sportsman Field tree line. She is concerned with two trees at Bicentennial Hall. Are they at risk to come down with renovations? L. Neff said the Bic Hall plans are not finalized, but the trees should be saved. Councilwoman Cole suggested STC writing a letter to Council to consider saving these two trees as renovation plans are made.

#### 8. Proposed New Agenda Items

M. D’Angelo asked for Arbor Day to be included on the next agenda.

#### 9. Adjournment @ 8:59pm