

FAIR HAVEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 2, 2022, 7:30pm via Zoom

1. Call to Order @ 7:36pm

2. Sunshine Law Notice

3. Roll Call:

Present: Beganie, D'Agati, D'Angelo, Larsen, Paolo, Reid, Sullivan, Councilwoman Laline Neff, Councilwoman Tracy Cole, Borough Liaison Krystie Larsen

Absent: Hoey, McCabe

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (January 5, 2022): All in favor

6. Project Updates

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

STC should look at 5-6 initiatives for Sustainable Jersey. A. Reid recommends the Tree Hazard section: need inventory and build a narrative around it. Borough helping furnish information where needed. Tree planting program section will be next. Fair Haven Eco Fair planned for May, STC would like a table to cross promote Arbor Day and other initiatives. Sustainable Jersey points earned for the fair.

b. Social Media (Beganie & Hoey)

Residents helping with content/pictures. Hold off on posting Big Tree Hunt material until date is announced.

c. Tree Inventory (Sullivan)

Sullivan has a list of software candidate: 20 potential resources, but focusing on those grantees have used in the past. Tree Keeper, Tree Plotter Planet Geo, Arbor Pro - all have pros and cons. Sullivan is trying to figure out where funds are best used – entire public property? Company believes volunteers doing the inventory is not the best idea; if it is done by a tree company, they can flag trees for other useful information in the tree inventory. The inventory tracks species, condition, risk rating, replacement cost. There are also apps available to help identify trees – T. Cole to look into this. Companies forwarding Sullivan a list of past clients for feedback. Next step is to followup with three more companies. L. Neff inquired on cost. Sullivan rough estimates \$3K/year for ongoing software and \$4 per tree. Sullivan hopes a grant would be available for maybe half and wondered if STC is allowed to fundraise for this software to help cover costs? K. Larsen to followup with Business Administrator on rules for fundraising.

d. Administrative – CEU's/Five Year Plan/Stormwater Training/NJUCF Core Training (Paolo)

D. Paolo thanked K. Larsen and C. Larsen for completing the Tree City and NJUCF Annual Reports. K. Larsen to follow-up on Stormwater Training requirements.

e. Plaque at Denormandie Park (Reid)

Reid going to make final selection this week.

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

Pricing is \$150/ 6-7 ft tree delivered (not planted). If 35 spots available, that is \$5300. Need to figure out logistics and budget. Paolo suggested B. Brooks work with DPW on planting options. D'Agati to meet with Brooks to make sure this is the right size tree for the location. STC Community Appeal funds \$1800; D. Paolo recommends using those funds to purchase 10 trees to start this program on privately owned property and owner will agree to maintenance. Will vote on this at the next meeting.

g. Tree Ordinance Review (D'Angelo)

Paolo and D'Angelo meeting with Tree Specialist Brooks this week to discuss new Ordinance points, then take it to the Zoning Board. Zoning will take more of an enforcement role. D'Angelo thinks the new software function of calculating a replacement value would be very beneficial. T. Cole reviewed her findings on process and procedure with Tree Removal applications at the Borough. The Borough is paying Brooks more than it collects in tree fees. She believes fees should be raised to also cover administrative and replacement costs.

h. Sportsman Field east tree line (Paolo)

No update.

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

Absent.

j. 2022 Big Tree Hunt (Paolo)

A date hasn't been released yet.

k. Arbor Day Celebration (D'Angelo)

Arbor Day is Friday April 29. There will be events at the library for all ages and a tree appreciation poster contest at Knollwood grades 4-8; winner gets a gift card.

I. Updates from Borough Tree Specialist, Bill Brooks
Tree giveaway winner will be planted this spring.

7. Public Participation

Bonnie Torcivia shared that the Green Team is looking at creating Pollinator Pathways in town. A new Community Center playground will be installed, she would like to see trees around it for shade. D. Paolo would like to work on this, but waiting for final construction plans to take shape for Police station. Councilwoman Neff suggested a more wholistic approach and beautify when the time is right. Ms. Torcivia noted tree planting must be done by Shade Tree Commission for Sustainable Jersey points.

Ms. Torcivia asked STC to consider a native species instead of Kwanzan Cherry on Fair Haven Road. Councilwoman Neff cautioned a safety issue of certain size trees with all the power lines and traffic on Fair Haven Road.

Ms. Torcivia attended the Natural Area Advisory Commission and discovered no one is responsible for the pathway between Third Street and Fair Haven Fields and urged STC to consider helping with it.

Kelly Flanagan thanked the STC for helping with Sustainable Jersey applications. She would love STC to have a presence at the Eco Fair.

8. Proposed New Agenda Items

None.

9. Adjournment @ 9:05pm