

# FAIR HAVEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 2022, 7:30pm via Zoom

1. Call to Order at 7:35pm

2. Sunshine Law Notice

3. Roll Call

Present: Beganie, D'Agati, Hoey, McCabe, Paolo, Reid, Sullivan, Councilwoman Tracy Cole, Borough Liaison Krystie Larsen

Absent: Councilwoman Laline Neff, M. D'Angelo, C. Larsen

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (May 4, 2022). All in favor

6. Project Updates

a. Green Team (Reid)

A. Reid noted Love Where You Live Day was a great success and it should be an annual tradition. D. Paolo believes it is a good opportunity to solicit donations, although only \$5 was collected this year. He thanked Bonnie Torcivia for the visual aids at the booth and noted there should be two STC volunteers at the booth in the future. 20 tubeseedlings were given out and the remaining 10 went to the Garden Club of Fair Haven. T. Cole loved the Bicentennial Hall location and the energy of the children at the event. She noted that Pat Drummond, the Fair Haven Historian, is looking for a new steward to train.

D. Paolo discussed a Zoe Arhanic's Eagle Scout Project of planting 16 trees to help curb invasives in the Natural Area. She is still looking for families to adopt the trees (water and fund). C. McCabe noted the volume of invasives there, and believes there is still a lot of work to be done.

K. Larsen mentioned that the Green Team submitted the Sustainable Jersey application and Shade Tree's NJUCF accreditation and tree programs helped garner more points on the application.

b. Social Media (Beganie & Hoey)

115 followers on Instagram. Posted for Love Where You Live Day and Big Tree Hunt. A video clip is available, but she is working on the right placement. Currently working on a deer resistant planting post. She urged Commission members to share content.

c. Tree Inventory (Sullivan)

J. Sullivan expects the first real proposal in 3-4 days and more to follow in a few weeks. Once she receives the numbers, she will work with Council Liaisons to garner support. Councilwoman Cole asked how the trees will be categorized? J. Sullivan responded street trees, Borough right of way trees and public spaces will be inventoried plus Natural Area (but Natural Area not every single specific tree).

d. Plaque at Denormandie Park (Reid)

A.Reid is finalizing the plaque with the vendor and expects the cost to be \$500-600. D. Paolo called for a vote for use of funds from the Shade Tree Trust to cover this expense; all in favor. K. Larsen to verify with the CFO that the Trust can be used for this expense.

e. Shade Tree Trust (Paolo)

The balance is \$6,257. D. Paolo would like to present that number each month to monitor the balance. Trust funds (donations) can be used on private property, not the Shade Tree budget (public funds). T. Cole noted that the Shade Tree Commission may accept donations. She suggested residents may donate to a particular tree/program if it is in their neighborhood or they have interest. D. Paolo asked K. Larsen to add an agenda item next month for a street tree replenishment program. P. D'Agati asked for a copy of the document that created the Shade Tree Trust and its functions; T. Cole to send the information.

f. 2021 Tree Giveaway, Hance Rd winner (Paolo)

The winner is patiently waiting for the two trees, as it is a learning process for the Commission in how funds and projects are worked out. The expense is expected to be \$1,000. T. Cole noted a trigger of \$6,500 to issue a formal bidding process, but the Commission can get quotes.

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

The trees and installation are sourced by two vendors. Councilwoman Neff and D'Agati will canvas homes on Fair Haven Road for planting spots. K. Larsen suggested the two homes damaged by fire. C. McCabe inquired on the status of Cherry trees at the end of Fair Haven Road, closer to Ridge Road. Borough Tree Specialist Bill Brooks had suggested they were living past their expected life and should have a replacement plan. D Paolo thought the project surpassed the scope of STC, but will write a white paper to Council based on the levels of recommendations from the Commission.

h. Tree Ordinance Review (D'Angelo)

Paolo gave an update in D'Angelo's absence. The working group has developed the draft ordinance. It is now being vetted by attorneys, then will be reviewed by Council and the Public. K. Larsen suggested looking at the Tree Removal Permit application the Borough uses to make sure it works in conjunction with the new ordinance points.

i. Sportsman Field east tree line (Paolo)

No update on the project, but Bill Brooks believes there is Emerald Ash boar present in the area.

j. 2022 Big Tree Hunt (Paolo)

There was no participation from Shade Tree Commission members.

k. Native Species List Project (D'Agati, Larsen)

D'Agati and Larsen started looking at Red Bank and Rumson for examples.

l. NJUCF Grant discussion - gaps to meet requirements (Paolo)

K. Larsen and D. Paolo will attend the Grant application webinar tomorrow 6/2 for additional information. K. Larsen to forward link to Commission, as 1 CEU is earned by attending live. Councilwoman Cole asked if the Community Forestry Management Plan ("CFMP") will be covered and if it is a prerequisite to apply? K. Hoey volunteered to update the CFMP, due in 2024.

m. Updates from Borough Tree Specialist, Bill Brooks

June 22 will begin the JCP&L transmission line project.

7. Proposed New Agenda Items

- Prioritize Street Tree Replacement project
- CFMP
- Add Council Update

8. Public Participation

Councilwoman Cole said at the Special Council Meeting on 5/23, funds were earmarked to address invasive species. C. McCabe volunteered to serve on the Invasives coalition, combining the efforts of multiple committees to tackle this issue. She said the Fair Haven Fields Natural Advisory is hosting a Rutgers expert Saturday 6/4 at 10am to tour the area and welcomes members to attend. She asked K. Larsen to circulate the CME Tree report regarding the status of Borough trees to the Commission.

Bonnie Torcivia suggested having the Rutgers expert inspect the Kwanzan Cherry trees at the end of Fair Haven Road after the tour to get his opinion on their health/trajectory. For the native species list, she recommended using an expert versus another town's list. She is excited for the changes the new Tree Ordinance will bring and hopes it raises awareness to residents about the benefits of trees. She thanked D. Paolo for the White Salem Oak he gifted from the Forestry division. She also welcomed Commission members to attend the Eco Fest in Rumson on Saturday 6/4.

Given the Commission's momentum, D. Paolo suggested adding a summer meeting. K. Larsen to facilitate scheduling.

9. Adjournment @ 8:57pm