

FAIR HAVEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2023, 7:30pm HYBRID: In person at Borough Hall and via Zoom

1. Call to Order @ 7:35pm

2. Sunshine Law Notice, K. Larsen

3. Roll Call

Present: Leah Beganie, Mike Hoey, Chris Larsen, Chris McCabe, Kevin McGovern, Jill Sullivan, Bonnie Torcivia, Councilwoman Tracy Cole, Borough Secretary Krystie Larsen

Absent: Peter D'Agati, Mike D'Angelo, Councilwoman Laline Neff

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (January 4, 2023): All in favor.

6. Project Updates

a. 2023 STC Proposed Budget and Action Plan, Chris Larsen

Councilwoman Cole advised that Council is a couple months away from finalizing the budget. She noted this year will be especially tight due to higher inflation costs. She advised STC to proceed with their plans and can discuss budget/costs as they arise.

b. Green Team ("GT") Update, Bonnie Torcivia

- Love Where You Live Day

B. Torcivia did not attend GT meeting, but had a request for STC to set-up a table for LWYLD. K. Larsen to send sign-up genius to staff the table and inventory supplies leftover from last year. The Commission agreed seedlings should be distributed.

c. Tree Inventory, Jill Sullivan

Good news: if FH applies for the resiliency grant, there is no cash outlay and a match of 25% of budgeted amount if FH can satisfy the requirement with volunteer hours (including Boro employee hours- secretarial, DPW, etc.). Minor volunteer hours appear to be charged at the same rate. Professional service fees/hours would not count because the match must occur after the grant is awarded. However, the grant size has decreased this year from \$50,000 to \$15,000. The estimated cost of the inventory is \$20,000. An inventory will be a required section of CFMP. K. Larsen to ask CME for a cost proposal to prepare the Resiliency grant. K. McGovern asked if the inventory is a prerequisite? J. Sullivan responded it is to gain access to a pool of other grants. Bill Brooks noted that Red Bank has an amazing Tree Inventory online and will give J. Sullivan the contact for Red Bank's STC Chair to discuss.

d. Community Outreach, Leah Beganie

139 followers. Dermer Dreams shared distribution plans for Door Hangers. RFH Key Club and Environmental Club volunteered to help deliver – planning to grant 10 volunteer hours for 100 doorhangers. STC members agreed to distribute March 31-April 2.

e. Native Species List Project, Peter D'Agati/Bonnie Torcivia

B. Torcivia shared the website she helped create for native and recommended trees. Bill Brooks commented the Black Oak and Black Cherry should be reconsidered and perhaps to add red and white cedars. M. Hoey asked if the list should be mandated for new construction and/or replacement trees? Councilwoman Cole advised there is no mechanism now to do so, but she suggested circulating the list to interested parties and using as Best Practices. C. Larsen made a motion to "go live" with the list on the STC website and send to other Commissions/departments (after tonight's edits are made). All in favor.

f. New Tree Giveaway, Chris Larsen

K. Larsen to recirculate list for discussion at the March meeting.

g. Kwanzan Cherry Tree Giveaway on Fair Haven Road, Peter D'Agati

Absent.

h. Sportsman Field east tree line, Mike D'Angelo

In Mr. D'Angelo's absence, Councilwoman Cole noted she reviewed the plans of the neighboring property and was surprised that only shrubbery was planned at the border. M. Hoey commented it was misstep by Zoning to catch this. She agreed there are holes in the landscape element of the application. It is mandatory to provide a landscape plan as part of new construction and is reviewed in resolution compliance. She asked K.Larsen to see if a landscape plan is required in a Zoning permit application?

i. Sunoco/M&M Realty Replacement Tree Planting, Bonnie Torcivia/Councilwoman Cole

B. Torcivia followed up with Edgewood Properties that owns M&M and there is no update. She left two voicemails, the last one informing them that she was on the FH Shade Tree Commission. K. Larsen noted that a tree permit has not been submitted yet.

j. Arbor Day, Mike D'Angelo

In Mr. D'Angelo's absence, B. Torcivia shared her vision of starting a new tradition of planting trees on Arbor Day. She believes Community Appeal donators would like to see Shade Tree plant more trees with these funds. She shared a map of proposed tree locations on Borough property for Shade Tree consideration. K. Larsen noted there is balance of \$6,104 in the Shade Tree trust. C. Larsen made a motion to fund four trees in Sportsman Field not to exceed \$200 each for planting. All members in favor. M. Hoey volunteered to assist B. Torcivia in researching vendors for pricing.

k. Salem Oak Plantings, Bonnie Torcivia

B. Torcivia would like at least one of the Salem Oak trees to be planted in the ground at McCarter Park.

I. Updates from Borough Tree Specialist, Bill Brooks

JCP&L will not do any tree trimming in Fair Haven in 2023. Circuit trimming will occur in 2024. Councilwoman Cole asked Mr. Brooks about street trees and how they are assessed. He responded that Assistant Engineer Porchynsky keeps a log to monitor hazards in town; K. Larsen to circulate to the Commission. Councilwoman Cole asked Mr. Brooks how he gauges replacement trees in private permits? He said it is a very difficult process and relies on the homeowner to plant what their issued removal permit states. He noted the permit letter stipulates a reasonable time period so a new tree can be planted seasonably. She said the Governing Body is interested in netting trees and would like to document replacements. Mr. Brooks will speak with Mr. Poruchynsky and K. Larsen regarding a plan. Councilwoman Cole believes it is an enforcement issue. K. Larsen noted the Boro processed 8 tree removal permits and one denial thus far in 2023.

m. Council Update, Councilwoman Cole

The Tree ordinance is stalled due to the number of pressing items on Council's plate at the moment. She believes there are enforcement issues that exist and the Borough does not have the infrastructure to implement the Ordinance updates, as written. She does not believe it is the right time to introduce the Ordinance and fears it will have to be reworked again.

n. Accreditation and Training, Krystie Larsen

K. Larsen said the NJUCF and Tree City annual reports were submitted for Fair Haven. She circulated the CORE training registration; M. Hoey, B. Torcivia and K. McGovern volunteered to take the course.

7. Proposed New Agenda Items

J. Sullivan discussed a resident tree buying program in Manasquan – for \$385, a residents can plant a tree on private property. STC members agreed it was worth looking into; if feasible, J. Sullivan will pass this project to another member. Councilwoman Cole noted that Red Bank has a similar program.

8. Public Participation

None.

9. Adjournment @ 9:36pm

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