

# FAIR HAVEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2023, 7:30pm via Zoom

1. Call to Order @ 7:32pm
2. Sunshine Law Notice, K. Larsen
3. Roll Call

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

Absent: Councilwoman Laline Neff

4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Chairperson and Vice Chairperson Appointment

C. Larsen was nominated by M. D'Angelo to be Chairperson; roll call vote was held: all in favor. C. Larsen nominated M. D'Angelo to be Vice Chair; roll call vote was held: all in favor.

6. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (December 7, 2022): All in favor.

## 7. Project Updates

### a. 2023 Goals/Action Plan

The Commission reviewed the Action Plan created by former Chairman D. Paolo. KL to send the current Community Forestry Management Plan to members for review. J. Sullivan noted a \$4,000 quote for the plan and will ask Borough Tree Expert Shari Spero for an idea on cost as well. L. Beganie asked if the Commission can plan ahead for this cost? Councilwoman Cole said the expense can be identified by Council Resolution with future allocations.

B. Torcivia asked for an update on the Tree Ordinance. Councilwoman Cole responded that it was at the Council level, but somewhat stalled and some components need to be revisited. She noted Council's bandwidth is stretched at the moment and will report back to STC with a timeframe.

B. Torcivia believes STC should have a tree planting plan. J. Sullivan noted it would be part of the Tree Inventory project (in public lands).

K. Larsen will circulate the Action Plan draft and budget for the Commission to vote on at the February meeting.

### b. Green Team Update

As a member of the Green Team, B. Torcivia volunteered to be the liaison to STC. She updated STC that Fair Haven is now Silver certified with Sustainable Jersey and thanked Shade Tree for contributing points towards this designation. The next item to work on is a Hazard Tree inventory. She noted May 7, 2023 as Love Where You Live Day and hopes STC can have a table again.

### c. Tree Inventory

J. Sullivan and Councilwoman Cole will discuss offline how to move the RFP along so the 2023 grant cycle is not missed for this project.

d. Community Outreach

L. Beganie noted STC is up to 132 Instagram followers and has graphics ready to go with winter tree facts. The Doorhanger project was postponed to 2023 due to a distribution plan delay. J. Sullivan suggested contacting the Environmental Club at RFH for volunteers. C. Larsen also suggested Boy Scouts. K. Larsen noted Dermer Dreams may have the neighborhood lists broken out.

e. Native Species List Project

B. Torcivia offered to help P. D'Agati with finalizing the Native Species List and will present findings at February's meeting.

f. New Tree Giveaway

K. Larsen will circulate the STC member submissions for a vote at the February meeting. L. Beganie asked how these trees will be budgeted? K. Larsen responded there is a line item requested in D. Paolo's budget, but trees planted on private property are funded by the Shade Tree Trust fund.

g. Kwanzan Cherry Tree Giveaway on Fair Haven Road

P. D'Agati provided a summary of the project for new members. He is working to identify locations/homeowners. He sourced a quote from Absolute Quality Lawncare for the trees. Bill Brooks advised this would be a spring planting. B. Torcivia noted that Privetera's Nursery had nice Kwanzan trees available.

h. Sportsman Field east tree line

M. D'Angelo noted the dead Ash Trees were removed over Christmas break. He will discuss a replanting plan with Shari Spero for the spring. K. Larsen noted she spoke with Shari Spero regarding the adjacent new construction and the plans indicated a driveway and shrubbery border, so Shari thought Shade Trees would be a good complement (on the school side). Councilwoman Cole asked K. Larsen to send her the permits and documents related to the new construction property.

i. Sunoco/M&M Realty Replacement Tree Planting

Councilwoman Cole gave background on the project. B. Torcivia contacted M&M Realty and asked if there was a way to spare removing the Oak Trees and M&M said they are planning on it.

j. Annual Accreditation Reporting

K. Larsen explained the two annual accreditation reports she will be working on for STC : NJUCF and Tree City USA both due February 15. She will reach out to Commission members as necessary for help in completing them. K. Larsen also reviewed Boro finance and communication policies.

k. Updates from Borough Tree Specialist

Bill Brooks was absent. B. Torcivia asked what the difference in role is between Bill Brooks and Shari Spero? Councilwoman Cole explained that Mr. Brooks was responsible for the operational, on the ground permit process. Ms. Spero provides additional technical input, as requested by the Boro. Councilwoman Cole asked if K. Larsen can provide permit data at the STC meetings? K. Larsen will check with the Clerk to confirm.

## I. Council Update

Councilwoman Cole encouraged STC to develop an Annual report and present it to Council. K. Larsen suggested after the Action plan was approved, targeting the 2/27 Council meeting. Councilwoman Cole provided a couple notes to the draft Action Plan. B. Torcivia asked if the Boro had a Master Plan? Councilwoman Cole responded it is due for review in 2026.

## 8. Proposed New Agenda Items

- C. Larsen held a vote to return to a hybrid meeting structure: All in favor.
- M. D'Angelo requested to add Arbor Day to the next agenda.
- B. Torcivia requested to add Salem Oak Plantings.

## 9. Public Participation

Stephanie Adams congratulated C. Larsen on his role and welcomed new members. She encouraged STC to have a presence at LWYLD and noted the Arbor Day posters were displayed on the Oak Tree last year.

## 10. Adjournment @ 9:14pm