

# FAIR HAVEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2023, 7:30pm HYBRID: In person at Borough Hall and via Zoom

1. Call to Order @ 7:33pm

2. Sunshine Law Notice, K. Larsen

3. Roll Call:

Present: Christian Larsen, Michael D'Angelo, Jill Sullivan, Kevin McGovern, Leah Beganie, Peter D'Agati, Michael Hoey (Dial In 7:55pm – 8:55pm), Bonnie Torcivia, Borough Secretary Krystie Larsen

Absent: Christopher McCabe, Councilwoman Cole

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (February 16, 2023). Bonnie Torcivia would like the record to reflect that she left two voicemails for Edgewood Properties, most recently stating she was on the Shade Tree Commission. She would also like the minutes to show she would like a Salem Oak tree planted in the ground at McCarter Park.

Taking into account Ms. Torcivia's amendments, all in favor of the February 16 meeting minutes.

6. Project Updates

a. Arbor Day, Mike D'Angelo

Arbor Day is April 28. M. D'Angelo shared that Fair Haven will continue to do a library program for the Sickles age children and a poster contest for Knollwood students. He hopes the Commission can continue to offer a \$50 Canyon Pass gift card for each grade level winner; he will contact K. Larsen to discuss purchase order process. He thought having the winners at the STC May Meeting for a photo and the award would be nice.

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

GT will host a movie "Wild in the Garden State" at Bic Hall on March 22 at 6:30pm.

Love Where You Live Day will be May 7, 1-4pm. K. Larsen to create signup genius for STC table volunteers. K. Larsen has not heard back whether the Commission was awarded free seedlings from the Sandy Recovery Act. M. D'Angelo said seedling survival is hit or miss. B. Torcivia suggested raffling off a more substantial tree instead. J. Sullivan noted a raffle license may be necessary – perhaps a suggested donation would be more appropriate. K. Larsen to confirm feasibility with the Boro Clerk. Bill Brooks offered to look for a tree donation. B. Torcivia requested the tree be native. M. D'Angelo made a motion for the STC to spend a maximum of \$200 on a raffle tree, if not donated. All members in favor. L. Beganie offered to make signage and a QR code for the STC table in hopes of attracting more social media followers.

B. Torcivia also noted the Green Team submitted a grant application for a water source and pollinator garden in the Third Street Trail.

B. Torcivia added that the Fair Haven Natural Area Committee ("FHNAC") will plant 20 trees this weekend. Also, they are hosting a "Walk in the Woods" March 22. She is a member of FHNAC and offered to give an update each STC meeting.

c. Tree Inventory, Jill Sullivan

J. Sullivan noted that the volunteer rate for adults and minors appears to be the same. There is no new update on the Tree Inventory. She will follow-up with Boris in Red Bank for additional information on their process.

d. Community Outreach, Leah Beganie

L. Beganie announced STC has 144 followers. She is gearing posts for spring. P. D'Agati suggested posting proactively about spotted lantern flies. B. Torcivia asked to add a post for the GT film.

The RFH Key Club and Honor Society are signed up to distribute the doorhangers March 31- April 2. The same routes as Dermer Dreams will be followed. J. Sullivan suggested setting up a table at RFH so the students can pick-up their allotment during their study period on the Thursday or Friday prior to distribution.

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

P. D'Agati has three potential homes to plant a Kwanzan Cherry Tree and is hoping 1-2 trees will be planted this spring. He thinks the resident buying program is a good idea and could work in tandem with this project. K. Larsen noted the identified properties need to be communicated to Assistant Engineer Poruchynsky to determine the ROW. P. D'Agati has a couple of vendor quotes which average \$800 per tree installed. He noted that most large nurseries don't sell trees as well as install, so two services are needed. He suggested if STC finds a vendor that does both to develop a relationship. M. D'Angelo asked about maintenance? P. D'Agati confirmed it will be on private property and owner will maintain. Bill Brooks asked if the trees had a warranty? He suggested one-two years from the vendor and should stress the importance of watering and care to the homeowner. M. D'Angelo asked about the timeline of the original Cherry Trees? Mr. Brooks believes they were planted in the 1950s and have outlived their expected timeline for their species. The trees have old age deficiencies which he expects to accelerate at this point. C. Larsen asked if there is anything that can be done to prolong their life? Mr. Brooks noted that DPW employee Dave Karl prunes them attentively; he will also ask Ken Lillie if adding a nutrient infusion would be worthwhile.

f. New Tree Giveaway, Chris Larsen

The following submissions were reviewed:

- A continuation along Hance in the area of Parker Ave. They've lost so many shade trees there due to Emerald Ash Borer.
- Second Street, west of Hance: Hurricane Sandy damaged trees need to be replaced.
- 174-176 Fair Haven Road- replace due to fire
- New addition of Sickles School is bare and can use shade trees
- 46 Church Street
- Park Lane
- 172 Lake Ave

B. Torcivia asked Mr. Brooks what species he would recommend to plant? He believes American Linden or a smaller Oak would be good, depending on the neighborhood. He cautioned against Red Oaks due to bacterial leaf scorch. J. Sullivan explained that Lake Avenue lost trees when the Boro put sidewalks in, but did not replace any removed trees. C. Larsen made a motion to grant the Shade Tree Giveaway to 172 Lake Ave; all in favor. J. Sullivan to reach out to the homeowner to let them know. Mr. Brooks will review the property to make a recommendation for right tree/right place.

K. McGovern asked if the Salem Oak tree would be an option for one of these locations? B. Torcivia noted that is a special tree and would love to have it showcased somewhere prominently, i.e. Sickles/McCarter Park.

g. Resident Tree Buying Program, Jill Sullivan

J. Sullivan researched this program in Manasquan. It is not a fundraiser, but a Shade Tree partnership with a nursery in Bordentown, NJ. Once a year, residents can purchase a tree directly from the nursery for \$385 per tree, installed. The Nursery selects the tree species (typically 4-5 species per year). They are approximately 10-12 feet and guaranteed for one year. The biggest challenge for Manasquan is getting the word out, but this program has typically generated approximately 100 trees a year. B. Torcivia asked if there is a minimum quantity for an order? J. Sullivan to inquire. She noted that Manasquan's budget for tree planting is \$15,000 per year. Perhaps FH STC should think about other fundraising opportunities to increase its tree purchasing power. She noted sponsorships are lucrative: perhaps STC can promote businesses through social media for an annual sponsorship. M. D'Angelo cautioned this may be difficult as a municipality and suggested independent initiatives, like the Third Street Trail Mark Olson is working on, may have more luck. J. Sullivan noted that once the Tree Inventory is in place, STC/the Boro will have the ability to get more grants. STC is in favor of pursuing this project: J. Sullivan will reach out to the Nursery to see if they are willing to take on another town partnership. Manasquan STC said they would share their website for this initiative.

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

M. D'Angelo spoke with School Business Administrator David Joye regarding the tree plan. The District is already working with a landscaper on a replanting plan for the trees that were removed in December and will have in place by end of the month. M. D'Angelo also discussed the ground condition, stumps and massive root systems running through that area. Given, those reasons he recommended the District continue independently with their plan and David Joye agreed. It was agreed the four trees STC committed for Arbor Day be planted elsewhere in town. Mr. Joye suggested to M. D'Angelo there may be a spot to plant two trees potentially at Sickles School. Mr. Brooks commented that the adjacent subdivision was supposed to cooperate with the school on the buffer plantings.

B. Torcivia noted that the Arbor Day plan still needs to be approved by Council. M. D'Angelo asked who was doing the planting and when? B. Torcivia responded the planting will occur Arbor Day weekend and hopes volunteers will be planting them.

i. Updates from Borough Tree Specialist, Bill Brooks

Mr. Brooks asked the County to come back to remove a tree on Ridge Road that is a potential hazard. B. Torcivia asked Mr. Brooks if he knew about the pink taped trees at the end of Hance Road? He did not. K. Larsen informed STC that the Boro's Assistant Engineer Nick Poruchynsky is aware and reviewed the property at 1 Hance Road. It is a private property, new construction; the trees are being evaluated, but the Boro has not received a tree removal permit yet. Mr. Brooks commented that there may be a slope issue and to check the DEP ROW heading towards the pocket park. When a tree permit is submitted, Mr. Brooks will evaluate.

j. Council Update, Councilwoman Cole

In Councilwoman Cole's absence, K. Larsen updated the Commission that Councilwoman Cole asked the Mayor to add the Arbor Day plan approval to the Council agenda. B. Torcivia said she and Mark Olson are spearheading this effort, but would love STC to have a significant involvement. She wants the Arbor Day initiative to grow because right now the Boro is losing trees. M. D'Angelo agreed Arbor Day should be a big push for STC.

## 7. Proposed New Agenda Items

- Natural Area update
- B. Torcivia asked for an update on the Tree Ordinance? She believes there is no disincentive for tree removal until the ordinance is amended. M. D'Angelo responded that it is in Council's hands and believes enforcement is an issue. C. Larsen will bring up the topic when he presents the STC Annual Report at the next Council meeting. K. Larsen to circulate the current ordinance draft.

## 8. Public Participation

None.

## 9. Adjournment at 9:12pm