

FAIR HAVEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION (“STC”) MEETING MINUTES

May 3, 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: Jill Sullivan, Kevin McGovern, Peter D'Agati, Michael Hoey, Bonnie Torcivia, Councilwoman Cole, Borough Secretary Krystie Larsen

Absent: Christian Larsen, Michael D'Angelo, Christopher McCabe, Leah Beganie, Councilwoman Neff

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (April 5, 2023): All in favor of approval.

6. Project Updates

a. Arbor Day, Mike D'Angelo

In M. D'Angelo's absence, K. Larsen advised that Knollwood Arbor Day poster contest entries were collected and winners will be voted on after the meeting. Winners will be invited to the June 7 Shade Tree meeting to be awarded their prizes.

b. Green Team and Natural Area Update, Bonnie Torcivia

May 7 is Love Where You Live Day. The STC table will feature Resident tree buying program and volunteer gathering information. B Torcivia donated a tree to raffle off. J. Sullivan suggested having an acorn tree planting station at LWYLD. K. Larsen will recirculate signup genius to staff LWYLD with updated time slots.

Arbor Day tree planting initiative with Mark Olson was only partially planted, as utility mark-outs were difficult to obtain on public property. The remainder of the trees will be planted at 3pm Friday 5/5 at Sportsman Field. A Salem oak will be planted at McCarter Park and they are looking for a location for two more Salem Oaks. B. Torcivia suggested William, Albers, Robards Park. J Sullivan asked about the Natural Area? B Torcivia thinks it should have a place of honor. M Hoey suggested Boat Ramp or Memorial Park. Councilwoman Cole advised that the STC should write a recommendation of the placement of the three trees to Governing Body for review.

M. Hoey commented on the Fair Haven Christmas tree and suggested STC get involved with replacing it with a larger tree. Bill Brooks suggested a soil analysis and soil prep prior to planting. K. Larsen to contact Dave Karl for information and put him in touch with M. Hoey.

FHNAAC held a clean-up day for the area near the cell tower. Volunteers planted 47 understory plants in the Natural Area. B. Torcivia asked why the Shade Tree Commission is not involved in the natural area? She believes the two groups of volunteers should be working closely together. Councilwoman Cole said the STC purview is the entire Borough of Fair Haven on public land and if the STC has a position or recommendation they should write a memo to the Governing Body. J. Sullivan responded that it is a bandwidth problem for volunteers. There is a Natural Area Committee dedicated to that area, but as STC evolves and gets through the priority of street trees, then Natural Area may come next.

c. Tree Inventory, Jill Sullivan

The grant application process is on hold.

d. Community Outreach, Leah Beganie

Absent.

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

Six homeowners are interested in having a Kwanzan Cherry Tree on their property. The Resident Tree Buying Program will be used for this planting. P. D'Agati will outline properties for a vote at the next meeting. He also would like the Commission to agree on the budget for this project. B. Brooks asked about the size they are expected to be and recommended high grafted as more desirable vs. low grafts. P. D'Agati responded 2.5 inches. P. D'Agati to send K. Larsen the list of properties to be vetted by engineering prior to STC voting next meeting.

f. Resident Tree Buying Program, Jill Sullivan

Planted tree pricing is expected to hover in \$380 range. Fernbrook Nursery is now an approved vendor with the Boro. STC will purchase the tree giveaway winner Bratone family on Lake Ave through Fernbrook in the fall. J. Sullivan will work with K. Larsen on the order process.

g. Updates from Borough Tree Specialist, Bill Brooks

The County will take care of the tree on Ridge Road. B. Torcivia asked about the tagged trees at 1 Hance Road and if the slope would affect removal. He responded yes. Councilwoman Cole added there is a portion of 1 Hance Road trees that are municipal property.

K. Larsen gave the monthly Tree permit update: 9 permits, 1 denial.

h. Council and Tree Preservation Ordinance Update, Councilwoman Cole

Councilwoman Cole followed up with STC on questions from last meeting: Is it customary for STC to entertain tree removal appeals? Yes, it is common practice. It can uphold a denial, the Zoning Board would be the secondary appeal body. Two versions of the Ordinance are being drafted: one based on Rumson Ordinance and the other with tweaks to Bradley Beach Ordinance. Drafts should be ready for review in the next couple weeks. Councilwoman Cole noted the Boro is still exploring ways to execute and administer the ordinance. The Boro would need a consultant or Tree Conservation Officer to manage permits and consult on larger tree projects. J. Sullivan asked why we are introducing the Rumson Ordinance for review? T. Cole said administrative and enforcement issues are more aligned. Councilwoman Cole asked Shari Spero for her cost to prepare the Tree Inventory grant, but there is no update yet.

7. Proposed New Agenda Items

Christmas Tree Replacement, M. Hoey

Salem Oak Locations, B. Torcivia

8. Public Participation

N/A

9. Adjournment @8:52pm