

FAIR HAVEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order @ 7:33pm

2. Sunshine Law Notice, C. Larsen

3. Roll Call:

Present: Christian Larsen, Michael D'Angelo, Christopher McCabe, Kevin McGovern, Leah Beganie, Peter D'Agati, Michael Hoey, Bonnie Torcivia, Councilwoman Cole, Borough Secretary Krystie Larsen

Absent: Jill Sullivan

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (May 3, 2023). Passed, all in favor.

6. Recognition of Visitors – Arbor Day Poster Contest Winners

7. Project Updates

a. Updates from Borough Tree Specialist, Bill Brooks

Monmouth County Shade Tree is very shorthanded due to resignations. They need to trim the Ridge Road cherry tree because it will be a hazard if a storm occurs. B. Brooks will reach out to Rumson to see if they can combine a work order list to get the County to come out.

B. Brooks reviewed the marked trees at the end of Hance Road: all the trees are in Boro ROW. Also, the slope is more than 20 degrees, so would require Governing Body exemption to move forward to remove the trees. K. Larsen advised that a tree removal permit had not been submitted for this property. C. Larsen to follow-up with contractor.

There will be no JCP&L circuit trimming in 2023. It will occur in 2024 and will likely cover most streets.

B. Brooks noted that parasitic wasp disease was detected around Lewis Point Road.

b. Green Team and Natural Area Update, Bonnie Torcivia

B. Torcivia noted that Love Where You Live Day was a success. The STC tree giveaway did not receive many submissions. P. D'Agati suggested a more significant hook to get people to the Shade Tree table (cornhole, etc). M. Hoey suggested using the Boro Buzz, the Fire House sign, the FOCUS and Boro bulletin board to market STC news to residents.

B. Torcivia said the natural area needs more watering due to lack of rain.

c. Tree Inventory, Jill Sullivan

J. Sullivan absent.

Councilwoman Cole thought the Borough's licensed tree expert, Shari Spero of CME, would be attending the STC meeting this evening. However, the Chairman advised that since J. Sullivan would not be present to discuss this topic, it was not prudent. K. Larsen noted that NJUCF announced that their Stewardship grant application will be released June 23, which J. Sullivan has been tracking and targeting for a tree inventory. Ms. Spero was asked for a quote to write the grant, but did not respond yet. P. D'Agati made a motion to request from Shari Spero of CME a Community Forestry management plan update and NJUCF grant proposal for a tree inventory. M. D'Angelo seconded. All in favor.

d. Community Outreach, Leah Beganie

L. Beganie updated STC that social media is at 166 followers. M. D'Angelo asked if any new followers since LWYLD? She responded yes, a few. She is working on wildfire graphics. M. D'Angelo suggested a graphic on how trees improve air quality.

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

P. D'Agati advised that the Kwanzan Cherry tree giveaway will be part of the resident tree buying program this fall. J. Sullivan estimates \$425 per tree. P. D'Agati recommended voting for two properties to receive a tree and made motion to spend up to \$1,000 from the Shade Tree Trust on this tree giveaway; All Commissioners in favor. P. D'Agati showed pictures of each property submission. M. D'Angelo asked if the Commission should consider the continuity of existing Kwanzans? P. D'Agati didn't think that was crucial. B. Torcivia wondered if the residents who applied for the giveaway would buy through the resident tree buying program regardless of award. STC voted unanimously on 188 and 278 Fair Haven Road.

f. Resident Tree Buying Program, Jill Sullivan

J. Sullivan absent.

Councilwoman Cole advised that questions arose during the monthly Engineering and DPW meeting about the project. Residents must complete a maintenance/liability waiver to participate in the program, which can be included in the order form as a disclaimer check box. There is no money exchanging hands with the Borough or STC. Councilwoman Cole will bring a draft order form to the next DPW meeting for approval. L. Beganie will create a graphic for the project.

g. Christmas Tree Replacement, Mike Hoey

B. Torcivia and M. Hoey met at Memorial Park to discuss a potential new Christmas Tree location. M. Hoey will reach out to DPW for a soil sample. He will have more information by the August STC meeting regarding funding of the tree – he is hoping for private donations. He will speak with the Beautification Committee about making Memorial Park more festive for the holidays, which he hopes will inspire local businesses to do the same. C. McCabe mentioned a Fair Haven family (Bill Killbride) owns a tree farm and will follow-up.

h. Salem Oak Locations, Bonnie Torcivia

B. Torcivia noted that given the current weather, it is best to leave the two Salem Oak trees in pots for the summer at her house. She suggested the following potential planting locations and asked STC members to bring any other planting ideas to the August STC meeting, in hopes of a fall planting: McCarter Park, William, Albert & Robards Park, cell tower section of natural area. She thought it would be a great Shade Tree project with Sickles School children to collect the acorns in the park and plant them. M. Hoey suggested partnering with Sickles School to nurture the Salem Oaks from kindergarten to third grade and watch/compare the growth.

i. Council and Tree Preservation Ordinance Update, Councilwoman Cole

Councilwoman Cole discussed the two different draft Tree Preservation ordinances that Borough Attorney Greg Cannon drafted. B. Torcivia asked why the Tree ordinance the STC worked on last year was dismissed and two additional drafts were subsequently created? Councilwoman Cole said there were staff and working group comments relating to procedure and the cost seemed to outweigh the area of concern additionally relating to the adjustment in the Zoning application. Councilwoman Cole reviewed the differences in the two Tree Ordinance drafts that K. Larsen circulated to STC. Fair Haven has overall canopy concerns. M. D'Angelo asked what the DHB threshold is? She responded six inches. The backstop for tree removal is to enforce replacement (either on the property where the tree was removed or by a donation to the Shade Tree Trust). M. D'Angelo asked about enforcement and believes it is needed. M. Hoey added that the tree enforcement official needs to be accountable for documenting replacements and suggested looking into how Rumson enforces their ordinance. B. Torcivia asked if appeals will be heard by STC? Appeals go to the Planning Board in Rumson. M. D'Angelo understands why STC should hear appeals, but believes there will be less appeals with the new ordinance criteria. C. Larsen asked about expected timing? Councilwoman Cole responded likely late fall.

Councilwoman Cole added that there will be a section in the ordinance for best practices during construction in order to mitigate damage to trees. She suggested the best practices come from STC and Shari can help prepare it.

8. Proposed New Agenda Items

Councilwoman Cole asked members to review the CME tree report related to microprojects that K. Larsen circulated. Current Borough practice is not to replace street trees removed/damaged due to roadwork projects. B. Torcivia asked if she may attend future field visits with CME? Councilwoman Cole responded that she will let the Commission know.

9. Public Participation

None.

C. McCabe heard back from Mr. Killbride: he does not grow Christmas Trees.

10. Adjournment @ 9:35pm