

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

September 6, 2023, 7:30pm HYBRID: In person at Borough Hall and via Zoom

1. Call to Order @ 7:32pm

2. Sunshine Law Notice, C. Larsen

3. Roll Call:

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

Absent: Councilwoman Neff

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (August 2, 2023): All in favor.

6. Project Updates

a. Updates from Borough Tree Specialist, Bill Brooks

In Bill Brook's absence, C. Larsen advised that the County will be removing the trees on Ridge Road in the near future.

b. NJUCF Tree Inventory Grant, Jill Sullivan

J. Sullivan announced that the grant was submitted on August 25. Fair Haven applied for the Canopy Resiliency grant for \$15,000 (full amount). If granted, Fair Haven will target an inventory for street trees and purchase software for tree management. Awards will be announced in late October. Matching hours will be very important, if Fair Haven receives the grant. Meeting hours, social media and communication work will all count and be critical. Any work before the grant is awarded does not count.

c. CEUs, Chris Larsen

STC currently has two CEUs. STC needs 8 by year end. K. Larsen to circulate the link again for in person and virtual training opportunities. B. Torcivia expressed interest in the Shade Tree Federation Conference and will work with K. Larsen to register.

d. Green Team (“GT”) and Natural Area Update, Bonnie Torcivia

B. Torcivia noted that spotted lantern flies are abundant in the Third Street trail. M. D'Angelo asked if “taping” the trees was safe for other insects or birds? B. Torcivia suggested placing tape lower and possibly a screen over it. C. McCabe asked it was the same tape used for gypsy moths? B. Torcivia was not sure. The Green team was awarded a \$2,000 grant for the Pollinator garden. GT is working on planting in the fall when it is less hot and will begin with a starter garden. GT is speaking to schools about rain garden opportunities.

e. Community Outreach, Leah Beganie

173 followers. L. Beganie posted stories for the Resident Tree buying program. Next, a mulch volcano graphic will be featured. She will also post what a “Tree of Heaven” looks like for spotted lantern fly education.

f. Resident Tree Buying Program, Jill Sullivan

J. Sullivan noted the Resident Tree Buying program was a big success: 56 trees purchased over 26 properties. Arborvitae was the largest seller, followed by Kwanzan Cherry trees. These numbers include the two Fair Haven Road Kwanzan Cherry tree giveaways and the STC giveaway winner on Lake Avenue. Fernbrook is targeting an early October planting. J. Sullivan suggested a big publicity campaign when the trees arrive. She expects multiple trucks over multiple days for delivery. A spring planting will be offered as well if all goes smoothly, given the popularity of this program.

g. Christmas Tree Replacement, Mike Hoey

M. Hoey met with the Memorial Park Committee and Boro employees to determine the best location for the proposed new Christmas tree. The Memorial Park Committee wants to keep tree in the same location, but was in favor of removing nearby trees so it thrives. Shari Spero (CME Associates Licensed Boro tree expert) visited the site and suggested the nearby Honeylocust tree be taken down as well as existing Christmas tree, then center the new Christmas tree. She noted that the tree removal company should ensure all existing roots are removed. Soil samples have been sent in. DPW suggested purchasing a cut tree for this year for proof of concept. Parks and Rec Director DJ Breckenridge suggested a few trees in Fair Haven Fields that may work. M. Hoey to look into pricing for Christmas trees with these specifications. M. Hoey to follow-up with T. Casagrande on budget to remove existing trees. P. D'Agati believes there could be some creative ways to fundraise for a new tree. K. Larsen noted the STC planting budget line item budget is \$3,500.

h. Salem Oak Locations, Bonnie Torcivia

B. Torcivia noted that mark-outs are difficult to get, so when the locations are decided, the Boro needs to obtain quickly. B. Torcivia has three Salem Oaks in her possession. They are small now, but she believes when they are planted in the ground, they will grow rapidly. Thus far, deer have not eaten them. J. Sullivan suggested protecting them with a fence. B. Torcivia proposed putting the largest Salem Oak in McCarter Park. M. Hoey recommended speaking to Principal Schwartz about placement and maintenance at McCarter Park across from Sickles School. L. Beganie likes Williams, Albert and Robard Park for a planting. B. Torcivia noted that park has irrigation. C. McCabe asked if a soil sample should be done in desired locations prior to planting? B. Torcivia believes that the longevity of other similar trees in that area proves they will thrive. C. Larsen made a motion to plant two Salem Oak trees in McCarter Park and one in Williams, Albert and Robard Park. All members in favor. B. Torcivia, C. Larsen and P. D'Agati will do a site visit for specific tree planting locations. M. D'Angelo suggested using an App "What Three Words" for a geolocation finder.

i. Tree Removal Permit Data, Krystie Larsen

K. Larsen passed out the Boro's tree permit data for review. L. Beganie noted the large amount of Oak Tree removal in the neighborhood by the Navesink River, between Hance and Battin Road. T. Cole suggested reviewing the trend with a Boro Tree professional for an assessment and treatment plan, then inform homeowners. L. Beganie to contact B. Brooks with addresses to review.

j. Microprojects Tree Report Review, All

C. Larsen asked Councilwoman Cole for the status of the Borough Microprojects, if they are already set in motion? Councilwoman Cole replied yes. C. Larsen and M. D'Angelo visited the identified areas in the tree reports by Shari Spero that K. Larsen circulated to the Commission. They agreed with her assessments, but expressed concern with the east

side of Historic District: the cited potential to remove a majority of trees under the power lines in the right-of-way is concerning. Councilwoman Cole suggested that perhaps tree planting can be part of a project's scope.

C. Larsen and M. D'Angelo also visited 18 Hance Road: an American Linden tree is over 200 years old and is in danger of removal. Councilwoman Cole shared that two utility companies are not working well together (power and Verizon). Power lines are going through the tree, so JCP&L would have to trim 50% canopy and risk killing tree. Also, the tree is wrapped in ivy. STC members expressed concern with its removal. M. Hoey suggested having a News Channel to cover the story to draw attention to saving the tree. The Boro requested that the utility pole be pushed back to pave the road. J. Sullivan asked if it is possible move the pole across the street? L. Beganie asked if the road can be paved "not straight" and go around the tree? STC member consensus is to save the tree and asked Secretary Larsen to draft a memo with STC position to save tree or at least prune and give it a chance to preserve it and procedurally moving forward be notified upfront as a matter of record.

k. Council and Tree Preservation Ordinance Update, Councilwoman Cole

Final revisions of the Tree Preservation ordinance took place with Borough attorneys, now they are working on a final draft. Councilwoman Cole expects the Ordinance to be workshopped at the Council meeting Monday. Then the "introduction", Public hearing, Planning Board review and adoption would follow (potentially two months out). Implementation of the ordinance will include changing forms and identifying roles within the Borough.

7. Proposed New Agenda Items

None.

8. Public Participation

None.

9. Adjournment @ 9:16pm

Shade Tree Commission Mission Statement:

Fair Haven trees are an important resource for all our residents. The trees' presence is aesthetically pleasing, is beneficial to our physical and mental health, adds value to our properties, and supports the overall well-being of the varied ecosystems which surround our Borough. It is our mission to preserve, protect and expand this urban forest in order that these benefits will still be available to future generations. To this end, we will develop a healthy, safe and sustainable shade tree inventory in the public areas of our municipality. With a focus on the systematic protection of existing and new plantings, we will work to maximize the environmental and socioeconomic benefits of our community trees while minimizing the cost and liability associated with poor quality inventory.

***** Next Shade Tree Commission Meeting is October 4, 2023*****