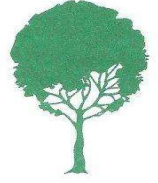




Borough of Atlantic Highlands
Shade Tree Commission



100 First Avenue • Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey 07716
 Tel: (732) 291-1444 • Fax: (732) 291-9725

Atlantic Highlands Shade Tree Commission
Meeting Held on Zoom
January 12, 2022 - 6:30 PM

1. The monthly meeting was called to order by Ken Grasso at 6:30 pm in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law.

Present: Ken Grasso, Fred Callis, Angus Rennie, Bill Thorne, Mary Trank; Ellen O’Dwyer; Brian Dougherty and Lori Hohenleiter (Council liaisons)

Not present: Janet Grote

2. Approval of Minutes: Fred Callis made a motion to approve the December minutes. Bill Thorne seconded. Angus Rennie abstained. All others present voted in favor.

3. Correspondence: none

4. Treasurer's report:

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Opening balance: | \$17,970.87 |
| Expenses | 1,200.00 |
| Total deposits | none |
| Closing balance | \$16,770.87 |

5. Approval of Treasurer’s report: Fred Callis made a motion to approve. Mary Trank seconded. Angus Rennie abstained. All others voted in favor.

6. Old Business:

a. Request from resident Randi Zamkotowicz for the planting of a memorial tree in honor of her husband Brian Zamkotowicz, who died in 2019. She wrote an email (below).

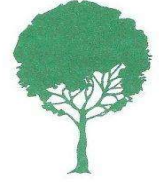
The commission discussed this request at length in light of “Policy for Planting of Trees on Borough Property (2014).”

Councilman Dougherty and Councilwoman Hohenleitner provided information to the Commission members about Mr. Zamkotowicz’s commitment to the children of the borough through his extensive involvement in recreation programs, and Councilwoman Hohenleitner suggested they bring a request to the Mayor and Council on behalf of the Shade Tree Commission for permission to plant a memorial tree on borough property.



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Ken Grasso made a motion to plant a memorial tree for Mr. Zamkotowicz after having the request presented to the Mayor and Council for approval. Bill Thorne seconded. All voted in favor. Councilwoman Hohenleitner said she would tell the Mayor and Council at the meeting the next night (January 13th) to expect a resolution at the January 27th meeting regarding the memorial tree for Mr. Zamkotowicz. Ellen O'Dwyer offered to begin a draft of a biography of Mr. Zamkotowicz using information provided by Councilman Dougherty.

b. Discussion of Spring planting: Bill Thorne said he posted on Facebook that residents interested in requesting a tree could find the tree request form on the borough website.

c. Project ideas: Ken Grasso asked if this is the year to begin a project with the firemen at Fireman's Field. Resident Ashley Cruz talked about wanting to start a grove; Ellen O'Dwyer added that she would like the grove to be an educational site for children. Councilwoman Hohenleitner said that Fireman's Field is not borough-owned property, while, for example, the Center Avenue and South Avenue parks are borough-owned. She said the borough controls access to borough-owned property and not to Fireman's Field. Members of the Commission are open to having discussions with the firemen about appropriate plantings for Fireman's Field (possibly the grove? possibly trees along the back fence?) and also exploring plantings for borough-owned properties. Would the grove be more suitable on borough-owned property, always accessible to Shade Tree Commission oversight/care? These matters were left unresolved. Fred Callis is going to contact the firemen.

Other possible locations discussed for planting projects: the Habitat for Humanity House location (residential planting); plantings in support of the borough effort to participate in National Wildlife Federation's "Certify Your Habitat"; the Denholtz property (later in the meeting, also mentioned as another possible location for an educational grove).

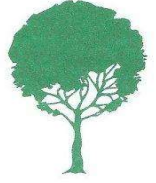
Another possible project: Bill Thorne explained how he and Councilwoman Hohenleitner met with CME, the borough engineer, about doing a "hazard tree survey" of the entire borough.

Ellen O'Dwyer suggested creating a program where residents who received trees through the planting program will also receive a one-time pruning within the first year or two.

New member Angus Rennie said he would like to see the commission prioritize planting trees that might enhance the resilience of the waterfront in light of climate risk.



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7. New Business:

a. Reorganization

Ken Grasso made a motion that Bill Thorne remain as treasurer and Mary Trank remain as secretary. Fred Callis seconded. All voted in favor.

Bill Thorne nominated Ken Grasso as chair. Ken Grasso nominated Fred Callis as co-chair. Bill Thorne made a motion that the two remain as chair and co-chair. Mary Trank seconded. All voted in favor.

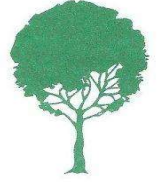
b. Meeting dates are the second Wednesday of the month.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting is February 9, 6:30

(see below)



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From: Randi Zamkotowicz [mailto:randiready@hotmail.com]

Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 10:43 AM

To: Merkel,Elizabeth <emerkel@ahnj.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Shade Tree - in memory of

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you Beth for your assistance with this.

My name is Randi Zamkotowicz and I live over at 78 South Avenue and have for about 15 years. My husband, Brian passed away 2 years ago at the young age of 46. I was hoping to find out the process of planting a tree with a plaque with his name over by Center Field.

He coached every sport the recreation dept. offered for my two sons (now 10 and 13). His favorite sport to coach was soccer and he actually was running up and down the field with his team just a few days before he passed away. He was a well-known coach and most remembered for sending emails post-game with a positive note to each and every player highlighting their achievements regardless of the game's outcome. The Majority of the kids he coached in soccer, basketball, and baseball came to his funeral... many in their uniforms. It was incredibly touching.

It would mean so much to my boys and me to have a place to go to remember him; one that he spent so much time at. My kids play at Center Field all the time.

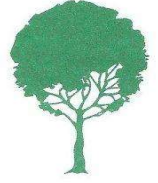
I really appreciate your time and consideration with this and any support or guidance you can provide.

If this does not work, I can purchase a bench by the Harbor, but I know the Center Field location would mean the world to my boys.

(201) 993 3787 Randiready@hotmail.com<mailto:Randiready@hotmail.com>



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Policy for Planting of Trees on Borough Property (2014)

A policy on the planting of trees on Borough property has been created to assure that the Town's forest is well planned. As part of that plan, the Shade Tree Commission has established a Memorial/Honor Tree Planting Program. Although the STC recognizes that there are many people worthy of having trees planted in their honor, or as a memorial, the ability to plant trees in specific locations is limited; therefore, it is necessary to restrict the planting of those trees to sites that are available and/or appropriate. Plantings in front of Borough Hall will be limited to honoring Borough officials, but requests to plant at other possible Borough sites will be approved on a case-by-case basis. Choices for persons to be honored or memorialized will be chosen from these categories: current or former Borough Officials, Borough Employees, or Appointees to a Borough Committee. The Borough Administrator or Council may make exceptions, under special circumstances.

To request the planting of a tribute tree, an application must be submitted to the Shade Tree Commission, where it will be reviewed, and, if approved, will be forwarded to the Borough Administrator. Forms may be obtained at Borough Hall, the Library and online.

The donation of trees is encouraged, but the Commission and the Borough must approve the site and specimen variety. Suggestions for Borough planted trees will be welcomed with the understanding that funds are not always available. Forms are available at Borough Hall, the Library and online.