



*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 at Atlantic Highlands Borough Hall**  
**November 9, 2022 - 7:00 PM**

1. The monthly meeting was called to order by Ken Grasso at 7 p.m. in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law.

Present: Fred Callis, Ken Grasso, Angus Rennie, Bill Thorne, Mary Trank, Ellen O’Dwyer, Janet Grote; Lori Hohenleitner (council liaison).

Not present: Brian Dougherty (council liaison)

2. Ken Grasso made a motion to accept the October minutes; Bill Thorne seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

3. Correspondence: none.

4. The treasurer’s report was presented by Bill Thorne. Ken Grasso made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report. Angus Rennie second the motion. All voted in favor.

Opening balance:	\$26,075.35 (October 12, 2022)
Expenses	0
Total deposits	0
Closing balance	\$26,075.35 (November 8, 2022)

5. Old Business

a. Fall Planting Update - Discussion continued about the locations for the trees of the fall planting project.

b. Resident Pete Brittain, owner of Coast Nursery, attended the meeting. He explained that he would dig our trees “after a couple really good frosts.” He said he expected this to be the first week of December. The trees for Atlantic Highlands will be among 2000 trees Coast Nursery will dig up. Mr. Brittain is going to donate twelve trees along with the order we have placed. He explained that these trees will be Maples, likely Red Maples. Bill Thorne asked about the utility mark-outs and who will call them in. Mr. Brittain said the contractor must do the mark-outs and he will call them in as soon as the digging begins at the farm. He asked to meet with someone on the commission to go through the areas where the trees will be planted to make sure there are no foreseeable problems. Ken Grasso is going to do this.

During a discussion about possible locations in town to plant trees, Mr Brittain stated his observation of the trees planted at the Many Mind Creek Remediation Project. He called the planted area “sparse” and asked if we could plant trees there. He referred to the trees that had been planted as “whips,” and said that they would take four to five years to become mature trees. Mr Grasso explained that the Shade Tree Commission had previously inquired about planting trees at that location, but could not due to the project’s ongoing maintenance contract in effect for five years.

Resident Ashley Cruz asked for a quote for the trees. Mr. Brittain this would be forthcoming via email to Mr. Grasso.



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c. Ellen O'Dwyer said she was approached by a resident who asked if the dead trees at the beach at the end of Avenue A are the responsibility of the borough and whether they should be replaced. The resident said she sent a message to the Shade Tree Commission through the municipal website, however Ken Grasso did not receive the message. Ellen said the resident was unsure if her message went through. Ellen is going to call the resident to gather more information about her concern.

d. Tribute Tree Update Plaque Modernization Update: Fred Callis continues to complete biographies. Councilwoman Hohenleitner is going to begin a biography for Paul Boyd.

e. Ellen O'Dwyer reported that Atlantic Highlands Day was a success. She distributed information and seedlings and collected \$21 in donations. Ms. O'Dwyer also reported on the municipal "green team." She showed photographs that had been submitted along with the borough's application to the League of Municipalities Sustainable New Jersey initiative, which earned the town "Bronze" certification. The "green team" will continue to work toward attaining Silver certification.

f. Earth Month - Councilwoman Hohenleitner said that the borough is going to coordinate Earth Month activities, as several committees and this commission have expressed interest in sponsoring Earth Month events.

g. Councilwoman Hohenleitner said that an ordinance change to expand the Shade Tree Commission continues to advance.

### New Business:

a. Ken Grasso asked everyone to think about 2023. Earth Month will garner attention and effort for the first several months; afterwards, what projects should the Shade Tree Commission undertake?

b. 256 East Highland - these homeowners have returned to the municipality with a request to "top" (trim) the trees blocking their view of Sandy Hook Bay. Ken Grasso asked if the mayor and council should act on last year's Shade Tree recommendation (do not recommend). It is unclear if the Shade Tree Commission will have to repeat the process of reviewing this request.

c. Angus Rennie said the film, "Wild in the Garden State" will be shown at the Atlantic Highlands Arts Council on Saturday, November 12, 2002. The filmmaker will be present. Funds raised will go toward support for "Wild about Atlantic Highlands" efforts to gain 501(c)(3) non-profit status. Through their leadership of this group, residents Elaine Egidio and Marilyn Sherfen have spearheaded the effort to have Atlantic Highlands designated a National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife Habitat.

### Public Comment:

Resident Ashley Cruz was present and participated in discussion throughout the previous hour.

### Adjournment:

Ken Grasso made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 pm. Fred Callis seconded the motion. All voted in favor.