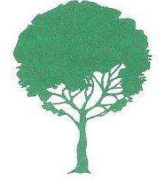




*Borough of Atlantic Highlands*  
*Shade Tree Commission*



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

**October 12, 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, Bill Thorne, Mary Trank, Ellen O’Dwyer, Janet Grosso (arrived 7:40); Brian Dougherty (council liaison).

Not present: Angus Rennie; Lori Hohenleitner (council liaison)

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

3. Correspondence: none.

4. The treasurer’s report was presented by Bill Thorne. Mary Trank made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report. Fred Callis second the motion. All voted in favor.

Opening balance:	\$26,075.35 (September 15, 2022)
Expenses	0
Total deposits	0
Closing balance	\$26,075.35 (October 12, 2022)

5. Old Business:

a. Fall planting update: Ken Grasso spoke to Pete Brittain, the owner of Coast Nursery, about finalizing the fall planting list. In addition to the trees we are purchasing from Coast Nursery, Mr. Brittain, an Atlantic Highlands resident, is donating twelve trees to the borough. These trees will be Maples. Resident Ashley Cruz will continue working with Mr. Grasso on finding suitable locations for the trees. The group discussed contacting SeaStreak about the possibility of planting trees in the harbor. The group discussed asking the Director of DPW Jimmy Phillips about the tree stumps in front of St. Agnes Church – did these trees fall down and when? We will consider whether this is a good location for planting new trees.

b. Fred Callis provided an update on the Tribute Trees. Biographies being completed include those of Eileen Coelli, Joe Hawley, and Helen Marchetti. Mary Trank is going to contact Tom Broadbent for assistance in writing Paul Boyd’s biography. Mr. Callis said he would like between five-seven biographies completed by Thanksgiving in order to provide them to the web designer.

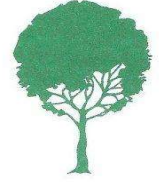
Mr. Callis said that we are going to be asking for residents’ assistance in locating all of the existing Tribute Trees in the borough.

c. Resident Ashley Cruz provided Ken Grasso with updated information about the Spotted Lanternfly which Mr. Grasso passed on to the Municipal Clerk Michelle Clark for posting for residents on the borough website.



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d. Director of DPW Jimmy Phillips told Ken Grasso that he is not going to accept at this time the Shade Tree Commission's offer to buy lunch for his staff (see the September minutes) because he believes the Shade Tree Commission should spend its funds on purchasing and maintaining trees in town. Mr. Grasso is going to speak to follow up with Councilwoman Hohenleitner.

e. Ellen O'Dwyer updated the members on her work on a proposed ordinance to expand the number of members of the Shade Tree Commission to a total of no more than nine commissioners - seven regular members and two alternates. Councilman Dougherty said he and Councilwoman Hohenleitner will present this proposal to Mayor Gluckstein. He said that he had recently had a conversation with Borough Administrator Rob Ferragina about encouraging more residents to volunteer for various committees so this was a good time to address expanding Shade Tree and perhaps publicizing on Facebook that the town is looking for volunteers to be considered for all committees.

### 6. New Business:

a. Members of the Shade Tree Commission will be present at Touch a Truck/Atlantic Highlands Day on October 22, 2022, Ellen O'Dwyer said she had seedlings to distribute. The group discussed the excellent publicity generated prior to the event, largely thanks to Morgan Spicer's poster.

b. Ken Grasso and Fred Callis said that next year we will address scheduling a stakeholder meeting for residents. In the past, the World Trade Center memorial trees have been the subject of a stakeholder meeting.

c. Ken Grasso said Shade Tree members must complete CEUs by the end of the year. Mary Trank said we should consider education for residents during 2023,

d. Ken Grasso suggested adding the Monmouth County recommended tree list to the borough website. He said that Ashley Cruz suggested we also post an Atlantic Highlands-specific list of trees.

e. Bill Thorne asked Ken Grasso if he remembered Donna Kociela, whose husband, Ken, had taught at the school. Mr. Thorne said that several years ago Shade Tree had planted two or three trees on E. Lincoln that Mrs. Kociela had purchased. Mr. Thorne said the trees did not survive. Mr. Thorne asked if Shade Tree should replace the trees. Ken Grasso will follow up.

f. Councilman Dougherty said Warren Kotzas is the chairman of the municipal Technology Committee and that he (Councilman Dougherty) has been appointed the representative from Shade Tree to determine what it is that exists on the current website that will be migrated to the new website. The new website is expected to be up and running by January 1, 2023. More information will be forthcoming.

g. Councilman Dougherty presented a draft of a letter that Shade Tree is going to send to the superintendent of the Many Mind Creek Project, Tom Merenda of New Jersey Natural Gas. The letter is attached to these minutes.

7. There was no public comment.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.