



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
July 12, 2023 - 7:00 PM

1. The monthly meeting was called to order by Fred Callis at 7 p.m. in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Present: Fred Callis, Ashley Cruz, Janet Grote, Bill Thorne, Mary Trank; Lori Hohenleitner (council liaison).

Not present: Ken Grasso, Ed Kenney, Ben Schmoll; Vito Colasurdo (council liaison).

2. Fred Callis made a motion to accept the June 2023 minutes. Janet Grote seconded the motion. Bill Thorne abstained. All others voted in favor.

3. Correspondence: Two tree removal permits were received.

4. Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented by Bill Thorne. Fred Callis made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Mary Trank seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Treasurer's report:

Opening balance \$13,563.87 (May 10, 2023)

Expenses:

Janet Grote poster awards (331.50)
 AH Arts Council Membership (250.00)
 Ken Grasso for Gator Bags (136.46)

Total expenses: \$(717.96)

Closing balance \$12,845.91 (July 12, 2023)

5. Old Business:

a. Tribute Tree Plaque Modernization project - Fred Callis said he expects plaques and biographies will be available by October.

The town will be installing two memorial benches in tribute to Walter Curry. Mayor Gluckstein asked Councilwoman Hohenleitner to ask Shade Tree to provide trees to accompany the benches. No decisions have been made about the locations of the benches, etc. - this is in the earliest stage of discussion.



Borough of Atlantic Highlands

Shade Tree Commission



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

b. Tree replacement - The group discussed selecting a new location for the Tribute Tree removed from the Harbor (the Pete Donoghue tree). As the borough engineer has final approval for the location of trees planted on borough property, the group will consult with Mr. Rohlmeyer before finalizing its plans.

c. Fall planting follow up with residents - We are going to check in with residents who received trees in the fall, ask them if they have any questions, and review watering recommendations. Ashley Cruz and Fred Callis are going to draft an email. Ken Grasso is going to provide contact information. Mary Trank is going to email residents.

d. Fall planting follow up with trees on borough property - Volunteers and a watering schedule are in place to care for trees on borough property. DPW Superintendent Jimmy Phillips has informed Shade Tree that DPW employees will be assisting with watering.

e. FilmOneFest (July 22, 2023) - Ken Grasso and Fred Callis will attend and publicize the Shade Tree Commission and its work.

6. New Business:

a. A meeting was held to discuss progress on updates to the existing Shade Tree Ordinance.

The meeting was attended by Ashley Cruz, Ken Grasso, and Bill Thorne from Shade Tree; council liaison Lori Hohenleitner, borough engineer Doug Rohlmeyer and arborist Shari Spero of CME Associates, and borough administrator Rob Ferrugina. A draft of the proposed amendments to the ordinance will be distributed and discussed at the August Shade Tree meeting prior to presentation to the Mayor and Council.

b. Proposed Breakout meetings - Fred Callis asked the group to consider a Commission structure that utilizes breakout committees. The July agenda provided some examples: tree planting; grants and certifications; community outreach; plaque modernization, tribute trees. This will be discussed further in September.

c. Bill Thorne said that he would like to resign as treasurer and asked the others to consider becoming treasurer. Councilwoman Hohenleitner said that Angus Rennie has resigned from the commission and the mayor is considering residents to fill the position.

7. Public comment:

Kurt Richter of 15 Belvidere Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, attended the meeting to ask for assistance in mediating a dispute with his neighbor regarding repair of a wall at the rear of his property. His neighbor has asked Mr. Richter to remove a tree before the neighbor will repair the wall. Mr. Richter does not want to remove the tree, as it is a healthy tree. Mr. Richter wants to know Shade Tree Commission's position on tree removal.



Borough of Atlantic Highlands
Shade Tree Commission



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

Because there is a legal contract (an easement) between Mr. Richter and his neighbor regarding this portion of the property, Councilwoman Hohenleitner advised consulting an attorney to enforce the contract to repair the wall. Mr. Richter was told that because this property is “steep slope” it is unlikely the town arborist would permit removal of a healthy tree should Mr. Richter file a tree removal request.

8. A motion to adjourn was made by Ashley Cruz at 8:30 p.m. Mary Trank seconded the motion. All voted in favor.