



*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  
June 14, 2023 - 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: Ashley Cruz, Fred Callis, Ken Grasso, Janet Grote, Ed Kenney, Ben Schmoll, Mary Trank; Vito Colasurdo, Lori Hohenleitner (council liaisons).

Not present: Angus Rennie, Bill Thorne

2. Mary Trank made a motion to accept the May 2023 minutes. Janet Grote seconded the motion. Ashley Cruz, Fred Callis, and Ed Kenney abstained. All others voted in favor.

3. Correspondence:

Ken Grasso received an email from resident Tom Marrone asking if the dead Bradford Pear Tree on Avenue D could be removed and replaced with a Cherry Tree. Because the tree is located on St. Agnes' property, the answer is no. Mr. Grasso is going to respond to Mr. Marrone.

Borough Administrator Rob Ferragina sent an email to Ken Grasso that a tree in the harbor at the Senior Center is too close to the building, is causing damage, will not survive appropriate trimming, and is scheduled to be removed. In response to questions raised by the commissioners about whether the tree can be saved, Councilwoman Hohenleitner said she will find out if the CME arborist, Shari Spero, is scheduled to be in town. If so, Councilwoman Hohenleitner will have her look at the tree.

4. Treasurer's Report: None. [June/July treasurer's report will be presented at July meeting.]

5. Old Business:

a. Tribute Tree Modernization Progress Update: Fred Callis reported he continues working on this project, which will launch when five-seven biographies are complete.

b. Atlantic Highlands Arts Council Membership: Through Board member Angus Rennie, the Arts Council offered use of its gallery for Shade Tree's April 22nd Earth Day speaker and for the annual tree seedling distribution to residents. At the May 2023 meeting, Shade Tree commissioners discussed making a donation to the Arts Council for use of its space and in support of future collaboration.

Ken Grasso made a motion to support the Atlantic Highlands Arts Council with a \$250 "supporting membership." Ben Schmoll seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

c. Watering Schedule:

Mary Trank gave an update on the watering schedule for the 13 trees that had been planted on borough property. This discussion continued at the conclusion of the meeting.



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d. Tree Replacement at the Harbor:

The two dead trees at the harbor will be removed. One tree will be replaced at that location in the fall; one tree will be planted in another location.

e. The Shade Tree Commission meeting on October 11, 2023 will be at the borough yard at the end of Lincoln Avenue, where the commissioners will attend a presentation by Department of Public Works Superintendent Jimmy Phillips. Mr Phillips will explain the role of the DPW in maintenance of trees on borough property and on DPW employees' response to tree emergencies as they occur.

e. FilmOneFest is July 22, 2023 and Shade Tree Commission will set up a table and provide educational materials.

6. New Business:

a. Fall planting follow-up with residents: An email is going to be prepared to send to those residents who received trees during the fall planting. The email will provide general support to residents and repeat guidelines for watering. We will ask residents who wish to send photos of their trees to do so, and will feature the photos on Facebook.

b. Ashley Cruz asked what procedure she should follow if she notices a hazardous tree on someone else's property. Councilwoman Hohenleitner said that any resident can report a concern to code enforcement.

7. Ken Grasso made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm. Fred Callis seconded the motion. All voted in favor.