

Minutes: Borough of Atlantic Highlands
Shade Tree Commission Meeting of May 11, 2010
For Meeting of June 8, 2010

The meeting was held at Atlantic Highlands Borough Hall, 100 First Avenue, Atlantic Highlands.

In attendance: Louise Donoghue, Marilyn Scherfen, Joseph Hawley, Lois Young, Kate Wigginton. Jennifer Marston and Mary Thompson. Guests: Mickey Rast and Adam Hubeny

Louise Donoghue called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

The minutes of the May 11, 2010 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made by Lois Young to accept the minutes. Marilyn Scherfen seconded the motion and all those who had attended the May 11th meeting voted in favor of acceptance.

Correspondence: A memo from Adam Hubeny was read regarding a video that all volunteers in Atlantic Highlands must view. A letter from the Borough Engineer regarding trees on 148 Bayside Drive was distributed. A thank you from Mr. and Mrs. Wuesthoff was read.

Treasurer's Report: As of April 30, 2010 there was \$3882.20 in the account. Bills totaling \$180 for the tree planting were submitted. Authorization to pay all bills that do not exceed \$400 was proposed. A motion was made by Joe Hawley and seconded by Marilyn Scherfen to approve the report. The motion was unanimously accepted.

The tree planting in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Wuesthoff in Veteran's Park was discussed. It was well attended and the Atlantic Highlands Herald ran the story in the May 2nd issue. Mrs. Donoghue thanked all who assisted and especially Mr. Peter Donoghue who took the pictures that appeared in the Herald.

Joe Hawley presented a motion to buy 22 trees for Avenue D and Mount Avenue at the best price and quality. Kate Wigginton will contact the utility company. Mr. Hawley has talked to the home owners and they approve the plantings. He further suggested that a tree be planted in the fall in honor of Bernie Frotton, a long time member of the Shade Commission. Marilyn Scherfen seconded the motion and all present accepted the motion.

Mrs. Donoghue gave a report on the Arbor Day Poster winners presentation at both the Atlantic Highlands' Elementary School and Mother Teresa Regional School.

Mrs. Donoghue commented on the motion from last month's meeting regarding the trimming of trees on property behind Bayside Drive (east of #148). Homeowners in the area have contacted her. They are worried that a precedent will be set. She stated that it is a slump block area and that it is unstable. Joe Hawley replied that in his opinion, trimming trees would strengthen their roots and therefore help stabilize the hill. Adam Hubeny reports that the

slump block is more in the area of Henry Hudson Springs and not on the Highland's border where the trees in question are located. He felt that trimming trees on the "flats" was not a problem. Discussion followed about correspondence from the County and the Borough. The County will take over the property within 5 years but they are not in possession yet. It was noted that Mrs. Rast was told at the last meeting that a decision would be made within 10 days and it is now a month. Further discussion about misunderstandings about Frontier Tree Company cutting trees in the area took place. They claim that they did not cut the trees in front of Eastpointe and do not know who did. A letter regarding the steep slope was distributed. Kate Wigginton commented that she could not tell what trees were in question. She had walked the area. Jennifer Marston asked if the trees could be marked. Comments were made about the arborist in question, who is on the State Board of Arborists and that the Borough has been satisfied with their work. It was suggested that the rules be tightened up to prevent further confusion. Joe Hawley presented a motion and it was seconded by Lois Young that work could proceed if the trees were indeed on Borough property and that the guidelines outlined in the May letter from T&M Associates was followed and further that the Borough Engineer be on site on the day of the trimming. Two days notice must be given to the Commission prior to the trimming so that a representative can be present while the work is being done. It is further stated that this is a onetime approval and that any future work will have to be presented and approved by the Commission. This approval is not to be considered a precedent. A vote was taken and the motion passed by all but Mrs. Donoghue who declined to approve the motion. Kate Wigginton's vote was an approval if a responsible party would be on site. Volunteers willing to be on site are Joe Hawley, Louise Donoghue, Kate Wigginton, Mary Thompson and Jennifer Marston.

New Business: The tree inventory was discussed and target areas for the spring or fall was identified. The areas identified are Avenue D, Mount Avenue, West Highland Avenue (towards Avenue D) and East Avenue. Mary Thompson will find out from Lou Fligor if the Gas Company still owes the town any trees.

Jennifer Marston commented on the entry to the first bridge on the Bayshore Trail. It needs plantings to mask the smell and unsightliness of trash stored near the site. Shrub roses were suggested. The subject was tabled until next month when Mrs. Marston will present a plan.

A suggestion was made to present Posten's Funeral Home with a certificate of appreciation for the trimming they did to the trees on their property. Mary Thompson will make a prototype for approval.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joe Hawley and seconded by Marilyn Scherfen. Approval was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Thompson