

Atlantic Highlands Shade Tree Commission
Meeting Held March 10, 2021
Meeting Held on Zoom

1. In Attendance: Ken Grasso, Fred Callis, Bill Thorne, Rich Lerner, Mary Trank, Janet Grote, Ellen O'Dwyer, Lori Hohenleitner (Council liaison).

The monthly meeting was called to order by Ken Grasso at 6:30 pm in accordance with the Sunshine Law. Fred arrived at 6:42 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Ken Grasso made a motion to approve the January minutes. Bill Thorne seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

3. Correspondence: An invoice was received from Paul Cowie and Associates.

4. Treasurer's report (Bill Thorne):

Opening balance	January 13, 2021	\$8,755. 87
Closing balance	March 10, 2021	\$8,655. 87

Rich Lerner made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Mary Trank seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

5. Old Business

a. Residential tree planting: Ken said that we are awaiting Casola Farms commitment to date/s for planting and that once that happens we can contact residents to make sure planting locations are marked.

b. Memorial tree plaques: Fred said he is working on this and is going to be reporting back at a later date.

c. 5 year plan: Ken welcomed Ellen O'Dwyer to Shade Tree Commission and thanked her for providing a digitized version of the [2020-2024 Community Forestry Management Plan](#), which has now been posted to the

Atlantic Highlands website, as the copy signed by the mayor has been located.

6. New Business

a. Tree seedling distribution:

i. Some have been purchased from the New Jersey Forest Service and we are awaiting the date to pick them up in order to set up distribution in front of borough hall like last year.

ii. Going forward, First Energy will also provide saplings free of charge -- something to think about for upcoming years.

b. Poster Contest: we are sponsoring the Arbor Day Poster contest at the elementary school and supporting teacher Caroline Northrup, who has requested an online submissions format and judging. The theme is "Plant a Tree--Get O2 for Free."

c. Arbor Day Proclamation: For Arbor Day 2021, we will request the Mayor and Council issue a proclamation as they have in past years. The group discussed planting a tree for Arbor Day as well and various possible locations. Ken brought resident Ashley Cruz in on this discussion, as she is a landscape architect who has offered her expertise about tree selection and placement in Atlantic Highlands.

d. Our Tree City USA Application has been approved for the 40th year--this is a big source of pride. We will need to fulfill our continuing education credits each year.

d. Tree Removal Form Location on the borough website under Code Enforcement: Janet asked about the location of this form, and whether it would make more sense under the "Shade Tree" tab. Lori and Bill are going to look into this.

5. CORE training:

Ken, Ellen, and Mary will be attending the New Jersey Urban and Community Forestry Core Training March 11 - March 31, 2021 online

6. Public Comment:

Three residents were present at the meeting:

Ashley Cruz

Katrina Majewski

Sarah Colasurdo

Ashley Cruz asked about the current Many Mind Creek restoration project, particularly replantings, and offered her expertise with replanting, as did Katrina Majewski, also a landscape architect. Lori explained that there is a comprehensive replanting schedule and yes, the town would like for her to come and look at the list later, particularly the effect of the plantings on the site over time.

Ken said this might be a location where the Shade Tree Commission and the Environmental Commission could work together on a project.

Adjournment:

Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Fred seconded it. All voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.