



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 Held November 10, 2021

Atlantic Highlands Borough Hall

1. The monthly meeting was called to order by Ken Grasso at 6:30 pm in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law.

In attendance: Ken Grasso, Fred Callis, Bill Thorne, Rich Lerner, Mary Trank, Ellen O’Dwyer, Janet Grote, Lori Hohenleitner (council liaison).

2. Approval of Minutes: Fred Callis made a motion to approve the October minutes. Rich Lerner seconded it. All voted in favor.

3. Correspondence: none

4. Treasurer's report:

Opening balance:	\$20,170.87
Expenses (Hufnagel Tree Service-Tree Trimming)	2,200.00
Total deposits	none
Closing balance	\$17,970.87

5. Old Business

a. The replacement of the Maple tree on Hennessey Blvd is imminent; DPW has removed the stump and Casola Farms is expected to plant this week.

b. Regarding the Mary Thompson Tree: Molzon Nursery has a vendor for the Serviceberry tree and the Zelkova replacement tree for 3rd Avenue. However, Paul Molzon has delayed in ordering these, citing the delivery expense to us for two trees. The group discussed putting together a larger order to bring to Molzon and other local nurseries/farms in search of the best deal.

c. Pruning was completed by Hufnagel Tree Service, including some trees on First Ave, some along the trail from First Avenue to the tennis court, and the row of younger trees on Hennessey Blvd. Two of the Hennessey Blvd. trees will likely need to be replaced. Ken Grasso will follow up.

d. The members heard an update from Fred Callis on the new memorial tree plaques, which will contain QR codes. The Shade Tree Commission hopes to publish on the borough website information about each person whom a tree memorializes. Residents and visitors who see the



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trees and plaques will be able to “read” the QR codes on the markers, and will be directed to the webpage(s) to read more about the honorees. Work on this project continues.

e. C.E.U. Opportunities: To maintain Tree City USA status, 8 credits per year are necessary. The group discussed sessions attended to date and tallying credits earned so the total is 8 or more by December 31, 2021.

f. Update on the Arbor Day poster contest: Councilwoman Hohenleitner and Ellen O’Dwyer continue work on the slide show to make the children’s artwork available for all to see.

6. New Business

a. Spring Planting: We have received requests for trees and we are going to do outreach to let residents know trees will be available for Spring planting, with particular emphasis for outreach to areas of town known to have lost trees during recent storms. Councilwoman Hohenleitner suggested that DPW Director Jimmy Phillips could help with information about where trees came down.

b. Councilwoman Hohenleitner and Bill Thorne met with borough engineer Doug Rohlmeyer, as well as the CME arborist, about creating a hazardous tree survey of borough-owned trees throughout town.

c. Councilwoman Hohenleitner and Ken Grasso attended a meeting with residents interested in having Atlantic Highlands Audubon-Certified as a National Wildlife Habitat. Ellen O’ Dwyer said this is not difficult—individual households in town have to provide food, water, and a place to raise their young. The Shade Tree Commission is going to work with other committees/commissions on this project.

d. Fred Callis said he will be arranging a talk by Paul Cowie about the 9/11 Memorial Trees for April or May.

7. Public Comment

a. Resident Ashley Cruz asked whose responsibility Route 36 is, and whether the Shade Tree Commission can act in improving its appearance.

b. A Port Monmouth resident who is a student of Urban Forestry at Oregon State University attended the meeting as part of a course requirement—he introduced himself.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm The motion was made by Rich Lerner and seconded by Ken Grasso. All voted in favor.