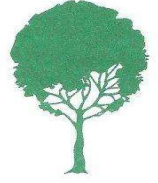




*Borough of Atlantic Highlands*  
*Shade Tree Commission*



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

**June 8, 2022 - 7:00 PM**

**Meeting Held at Atlantic Highlands Borough Hall**

1. The monthly meeting was called to order by Ken Grasso at 7 p.m. in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law.

Present: Ken Grasso, Fred Callis, Bill Thorne, Angus Rennie, Mary Trank, Ellen O’Dwyer, Janet Grote; Lori Hohenleitner (council liaison).

Not present: Brian Dougherty (council liaison).

2. The May 2022 minutes will be approved at the July 2022 meeting.

3. Correspondence: Two tree requests were received.

4. Treasurer's report by Bill Thorne:

Opening balance:	\$16,321.90
Expenses	0
Total deposits	0
Closing balance	\$16,321.90

5. Approval of Treasurer’s report: Mary Trank made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report. Fred Callis seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

6. Old Business:

a. Ken Grasso provided an update on the residential tree planting program; 30 trees will be planted - this includes 12 donated trees. Ken made a motion for expenditure of an additional amount not to exceed \$5,000 for the installation and purchase of these trees. Bill Thorne seconded the motion. All voted in favor. [\$15,000 total approved May and June.] Resident Ashley Cruz is going to assist Ken Grasso in visiting the locations and determining appropriate trees.

b. The group also discussed planting trees in parks within the municipality. Councilwoman Hohenleitner suggested the South Avenue Park and/or the Manymind Avenue Park. She said the town has “pocket parks,” including one next door to the new Habitat House location (21 Leonard Avenue). Ellen O’Dwyer said she would like to see the commission plant groves of 3-5 trees, as could be done in a park.

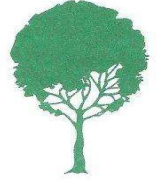
c. Arbor Day Poster Contest judging occurred prior to the scheduled start of tonight’s meeting. Janet Grote is going to buy ribbons and gift cards for the winners and their teacher, Ms. Caroline Northrup.

d. Fred Callis updated the group on the Memorial Tree Plaque Modernization project; he showed a mobile phone version of a memorial biography to the group, and explained that the biography will be associated with a permanent web address.



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e. Regarding the question of Shade Tree Commission expansion, Ellen O'Dwyer contacted Sayreville for more information after determining its Shade Tree Commission had increased in size by ordinance twice since its inception in 1973. It was created in 1973 with three members; in 1985, it increased to five members; in 1999, the Commission increased to seven members and two alternates, all borough residents appointed for five year terms. Ellen O'Dwyer was awaiting further information from the Sayreville municipal clerk on the language of the ordinance(s).

7. New Business:

Ellen O'Dwyer updated on the municipal "Green Table" at the weekly Farmer's Market to educate residents about the various groups in town working together on environmental issues. She is planning a tree seedling and a milkweed giveaway. She and others are continuing efforts to have Atlantic Highlands included on the registry of Certified National Wildlife Community Habitats - this will require the participation of 100 residences.

8. Public Comment:

Resident Ashley Cruz said that she was disappointed to see a large, red oak tree removed on Grand Avenue recently. Angus Rennie asked if the Shade Tree Commission might provide a service to residents to assist them in determining if a tree can be saved in order to preserve the canopy. Councilwoman Hohenleitner said that she and Bill Thorne had met with the town arborist last year to discuss whether completing a townwide hazardous tree study might be advantageous. However, this raises issues of liability, as trees on a resident's property are their responsibility. Ellen O'Dwyer asked if the Shade Tree Commission should have final say on whether a tree should come down. Ken Grasso said this only applies to Steep Slope trees. Ellen O'Dwyer said other towns such as Colts Neck have Heritage Tree ordinances. She said Atlantic Highlands should consider a Heritage Tree ordinance, as it is too easy now to cut down a tree of wide diameter.

9. Adjournment:

Ken Grasso made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm. Fred Callis seconded. All voted in favor. The next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2022 at 7 pm.