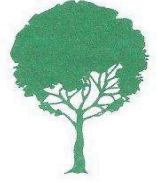




Borough of Atlantic Highlands
Shade Tree Commission



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

Atlantic Highlands Shade Tree Commission (STC)
Meeting at Atlantic Highlands Borough Hall
April 10, 2024 - 7:00 PM

1. The monthly meeting was called to order by Ashley Cruz at 7 p.m. in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Present: Ashley Cruz, Janet Grote, Ben Schmoll, Bill Thorne, Mary Trank; Vito Colasurdo (council liaison).

Not present: Frank Gargione, Ed Kenney; James Murphy (council liaison).

2. Ben Schmoll made a motion to accept the March 2024 minutes; Ashley Cruz seconded the motion. All others voted in favor.

3. Correspondence: five requests to plant a tree were received; copies of many tree removal permits were received. An invoice from New Jersey Shade Tree Federation was received. Additionally, Ashley Cruz said that she received an email from resident Elaine Egidio requesting that a tribute tree be planted in memory of her father, a former Atlantic Highlands Chief of Police. Ms. Cruz said she would direct Ms. Egidio to the tribute tree request form on the website.

4. Treasurer’s Report: The treasurer’s report was presented by Ben Schmoll. Ashley Cruz made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report; Bill Thorne seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Opening balance	\$14,065.99 (March 13, 2024)
<i>Expenses</i>	\$374.62 (Postage for newsletter)
<i>Deposits</i>	0
Closing balance	\$13, 691 (April 10, 2024)

5. Old Business:

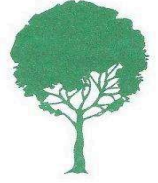
a. Shade Tree Ordinance Update: Ashley Cruz is writing a cover letter to accompany the recommendations for revision that STC will be sending to the Mayor and Council. Ms. Cruz is also going to prepare a proposed revised tree removal permit to send to Mayor and Council. Ms. Cruz said she would like to incorporate staffing and tracking in the revised ordinance (e.g., who is responsible for receiving and responding to tree removal permits; what records are kept of, for example, trees that come down during storms).

b. April Earth Month events:

Arbor Day Tree: STC has not heard back about planting a tree in the jug handle at First Ave and Route 36. Ben Schmoll is going to look at another possible location - South Avenue Park. DPW Director Jim



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Phillips contacted Ashley Cruz about the possibility of planting a new row of trees on Hennessey Blvd. If STC cannot find another location, one of the new Hennessey Blvd trees could be the Arbor Day Tree.

Arbor Day proclamation. Ashley Cruz is going to check with Borough Clerk Michelle Clark about this.

Sapling distribution. Ben Schmoll and Frank Gargione are going to coordinate the sapling distribution, which is scheduled for Saturday, April 27th.

Speaker: Mary Trank is coordinating Mary Charlotte Gitlin's visit/talk scheduled for April 27th at the AH Arts Council. Ms Gitlin's fee is \$300. Bill Thorne arranged for CEUs to be granted to attendees by New Jersey Urban & Community Forestry Program (NJUCF). Mary Trank is going to contact the Arts Council to coordinate refreshments.

Poster Contest: Janet Grote is coordinating the Arbor Day poster contest with the help of Caroline Northrop, AHES art teacher. The posters are due to come in on April 29th. At the May 8th meeting awards/prizes will be decided.

c. Tribute Tree Update: Former Shade Tree co-chair Fred Callis attended the meeting to update STC on the Tribute Tree project. He brought an engraved metal plaque for the group to view.

6. New Business:

a. Ashley Cruz said she would address NJUCF accreditation, training and development, and the CFMP at the next meeting.

7. Public comment: None.

8. Ashley Cruz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ben Schmoll seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.