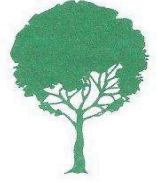




Borough of Atlantic Highlands
Shade Tree Commission



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

Atlantic Highlands Shade Tree Commission
Meeting at Atlantic Highlands Borough Hall
January 10, 2024 - 7:00 PM

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

Present: Ashley Cruz, Ben Schmoll, Bill Thorne, Mary Trank; Vito Colasurdo, James Murphy (council liaisons); Mayor Lori Hohenleitner.

Not present: Frank Gargione, Janet Grote, Ed Kenney.

2. Reorganization conducted by Mary Trank:

Bill Thorne made a motion to nominate Mary Trank for secretary; Ben Schmoll seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ashley Cruz made a motion to nominate Ben Schmoll for treasurer; Bill Thorne seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Bill Thorne made a motion to nominate Ashley Cruz for chairperson; Ashley Cruz made a motion to nominate Bill Thorne for chairperson.

After discussion, Ben Schmoll made a motion to nominate Ashley Cruz and Bill Thorne as co-chairs; Mary Trank seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mayor Lori Hohenleitner addressed the group. She said that she is going to have a chair training for all commission and committee chairs, likely in February. She spoke briefly about social media, and asked Shade Tree members to be mindful, when engaging on social media, that appointed members of committees and commissions represent the borough.

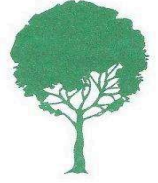
3. Co-chair Ashley Cruz continued the meeting.

Ben Schmoll made a motion to accept the December 2023 minutes; Ashley Cruz seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

4. Correspondence: none.



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5. Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented by Bill Thorne. Mary Trank made a motion to accept the treasurer's report; Ben Schmoll seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Opening balance	\$15,486.91 (December 14, 2023)
Expenses	None
Deposits	None
Closing balance	\$15,486.91 (January 10, 2024)

6. Old Business:

a. Fall planting update: Ashley Cruz said two trees planted in the Harbor were relocated. A cherry tree was moved to the senior center; a maple tree was moved to the gazebo. She said we will be sending a letter to all residents who had trees planted on their property during the fall planting. The letter will contain information about how to care for the trees.

b. Newsletter update: Bill Thorne said the newsletter will likely be sent in March. Ashley Cruz said they are reviewing articles.

c. Tribute Tree modernization: Former Shade Tree co-chair, Fred Callis, returned to provide an update. He distributed a photocopy of a sample plaque. The members offered suggestions about the design. Mr. Callis said the policy for requesting a tribute tree will be posted on the borough website. Ben Schmoll asked for clarification of eligibility for a tribute tree. He asked if Shade Tree had considered offering trees with no plaques to residents who might wish to remember a family member.

7. New Business:

a. New second signer for checks: Ben Schmoll and Bill Thorne will go to the bank and have Mr. Schmoll added as a signer.

b. Oak trees in Veterans Park: Ashley Cruz discussed the trees in Veterans Park, which have bacterial leaf scorch. She informed the members about the recommended treatment for some of the trees and its cost, \$1475 per year. The borough arborist does not think all trees should be treated as some trees cannot be saved even with treatment. Given that trees may have to be removed in the years ahead, Shade Tree Commission will continue to plant new trees in Veterans Park.

8. Public comment: none

9. Bill Thorne made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ben Schmoll seconded the motion. All voted in favor.