



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
July 10, 2024, 7pm

9. The monthly meeting was called to order by Ashley Cruz at 7:03pm in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act
 - a. Present: Ashley Cruz, Frank Gargione, Janet Grote, Bill Thorne; Vito Colasurdo (council liaison); in addition, Laura Redmond (public/potential member)
 - b. Not present: Ben Schmoll, Ed Kenney; James Murphy (council liaison)
 - c. VC will look into the EK/absentee issue
 - d. There were not enough members in attendance to constitute a quorum, so nothing can be voted on

10. Minutes: May and June minutes need to be approved (no-one saw them in time for the May meeting, unable to vote in June meeting); minutes were sent/re-sent via email; tabled

11. Correspondence:
 - a. 1 tree request
 - b. Multiple trims/removals requests/permissions (some are unnecessary as they are small jobs)
 - c. List of NJ licensed tree services providers updated and approved for AH as of 06/21/24: Is this on the borough website? Should it be? We need to make sure only approved companies are doing work in town, everyone reviewed the document quickly

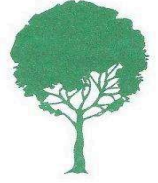
12. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. BS did share a report via email but we were unable to vote; tabled
 - b. JG received check for poster contest expenses (\$269.38)
 - c. Did art council donation happen?
 - d. Opening balance \$12,493.37; closing balance \$12,223.99
 - e. We have 18 trees to plant (requests, jug handle, South Park), estimate based on 2023 plantings is \$9,518
 - i. New fiscal budget approval in July
 - ii. VC will find out when that money will come through
 - iii. Last year we were supposed to receive \$15K but only received \$10K, a portion may have gone to DPW for work completed

13. Old Business:
 - a. Ordinance: After not hearing back we had some movement as AC/JM attended council meeting
 - i. The next week the borough provided revisions/a formal document which was quite different (order, layout, missing sections)



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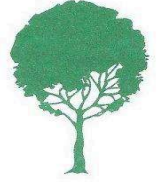


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- ii. On 07/09/24, in a call with Sarah Fitzpatrick (one of the borough attorneys), it was noted that the ordinance would be introduced at the 07/11/24 meeting, with potential to become law at the August meeting
 - iii. But, we are pushing back a month to address these revisions, and our committee needs to reconvene/rereview
 - iv. VC asked if we can do a document comparison and will try to manipulate the PDF to do so, JG thinks we should be able to review and know what's missing; that committee (AC/BT/JG/VC) will meet separately to address these issues
 - b. Arbor Day tree planting: On hold until fall for cooler weather as planning took too long
 - c. South Avenue Park (new playground): A good spot for new municipal trees
 - i. There are no trees planned, trees were proposed but there is no budget
 - ii. AC shared a plan
 - d. Species List: BT/JG have not had a chance to discuss and JG doesn't see anything happening until september
 - i. AC reshared files, recent plantings map/information, and asked that we keep our eyes out for viable inclusions for the list
 - e. Watering/Maintenance: AC will send a checklist for watering and inspections
 - i. JG noted four at the Seatreak lot near the hot dog stand do not look good — may not just be a watering issue, are they planted too deep? Poisoned?
 - These were donated trees and planted by Coast Nursery, they do not do a great job, should we try a soil sample? Definitely do a soil test before new trees are put in
 - f. Community Forestry Management Plan: Paul Cowie did not get back to BT, Rick Wolawitz said he will provide an estimate but wants a timeline
 - i. Early 2025
 - ii. BT reach out to Riley ? at Bartlett as well
14. New Business
- a. The remaining Veterans Park trees that are in better condition will be tested for leaf scorch and treatability once it is seasonally appropriate
 - b. Film One Festival: We are welcome to go early (before the movies begin) and set up a table (which will be provided) with brochures along with vendors and municipal groups
 - i. Saturday 06/20/24 in the evening; volunteers are invited to watch the movies once they start
 - ii. No-one was readily available (JG is able to stop by but can't man the table)
 - iii. Ken ?/Fred ? did it last year along with, maybe, the Environmental Commission and/or Green Team
 - iv. AC will reach out to those commissions to see if they will be present
 - v. If present, we can hand out Tree City brochure and newsletter



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- c. Recent storm: an elm at West Highland and Hennessey came down, whoever works on the forestry plan can help with issues like this in terms of tree canopy/coverage percentages
 - i. Only 4 survey responses were received after the storm (including AC/FG); other 2 respondents took down the trees in question
 - d. American chestnut film (BT shared): Consider showing this at the library or arts council as a group event
 - i. Let's approach the library first, AC will reach out to Gloria ? (head of our library association), and will loop FG in for help
 - e. 3 trees damaged were damaged during the Fireman's Fair: 2 tribute trees, 1 was very recently planted
 - i. Jimmy Phillips brought this to AC's attention
 - ii. Unsure if trees will survive
 - iii. We should ask them to replace these trees
 - What power do we have as commission to say we need these trees to be replaced, to approach the DPW/FD
 - The party that damaged the trees should pay, JP knows who did the damage
 - Asking for reparations is a timely issue
 - f. Damaged tree in Veterans Park: Rob ? (borough administrator) said he will not ask the tree service to pay for that
 - i. Suggested that we ask how much we spent on tree trimming/removal with the tree service in comparison to the \$200-300 we invested in the tree in question
 - ii. AC will circle back with him, possibly in person
15. Public Comment: LR is interested in joining the commission and will fill out form
16. Adjournment: All made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm; the next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 7pm