



Borough of Atlantic Highlands
Shade Tree Commission



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

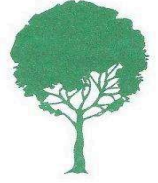
Atlantic Highlands Shade Tree Commission (STC)
Meeting at Atlantic Highlands Borough Hall
June 12, 2024, 7pm

1. The monthly meeting was called to order by Ashley Cruz at 7:07pm in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act
 - a. Present: Ashley Cruz, Frank Gargione, Janet Grote, Ben Schmoll, Bill Thorne; James Murphy (council liaison)
 - b. Not present: Ed Kenney; Vito Colasurdo (council liaison)
2. Minutes: no-one saw them as FG had sent them earlier than usual, FG resent
3. Correspondence: 2 tree requests, multiple trims/removals requests/permissions
4. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Settled balance for printing/sorting for newsletter - \$803
 - b. \$95 to renew membership for NJ Shade Tree Federation
 - c. JG needs to submit/resubmit receipts to BS for poster contest giftcards/packaging and will write check to reimburse JG
 - d. AC proposed approving treasurer's report, BT seconded, all in favor
5. Old business:
 - a. Ordinance: everything went to rob/council liaisons but AC needs to send/forward to commission members, her package included letter of explanation, draft of removal permit, and letting them know we talked to NJDEP case manager
 - i. Lori, in person, said she saw it, asked that the email to be forwarded to her
 - ii. After two weeks, AC asked for an update from Rob, he said waiting to hear from the attorney on 5/20
 - iii. Reached out again on 6/7, still no update and no one has written back in any form
 - iv. Can we do anything or just wait? The council meeting is Thursday 6/13, someone could mention the ordinance in public comment and give the attorney a head's up
 - v. We are past deadline but NJDEP knows we are in progress, it is fine
 - b. Arbor Day tree planting:
 - i. AC tagged a redbud and american linden to be placed in First Ave. jug handle
 - ii. NJDOT/NJDEP is on board
 - iii. Jimmy Phillips is calling for markouts, then planting can happen,
 - iv. JM will report this in council meeting and DPW will provide date
 - c. Veterans Park:
 - i. Removed two most hazardous trees (suffering from bacterial leaf scorch)
 - ii. Broken sweet gum will be reported to Rob as well, to discuss options



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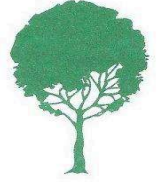


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- Boylan's Tree Service did this tree work and damaged the sweet gum further — will they pay for replacement/removal/etc.
 - d. Tree planting — where do we want to put new trees this fall?
 - e. Species List: we will compile a recommended species list for the town, something a bit more “enticing” (a PDF with images, almost a catalog with hyperlinks to profiles at Arbor Day site or similar)
 - i. Links to a nice booklet that Fair Haven has put together, as well as the AH/Monmouth County list are in May's minutes, please reference; Princeton has a species list in progress as well
 - ii. The current AH/MC list is from 2013
 - iii. AC also has a working list of approved/recommended species list
 - iv. BT and JG will work on list expanding that list and FG will work on the actual document
 - v. Talk more at next meeting
 - f. Watering schedule: there are 3-4 trees at the harbor (BT will try to monitor), 1 at Many Minds Avenue Park (AC), 3 at Veterans Park (FG/BS), 2 will be at the jug handle soon
 - i. Mary Trank offered to help on a watering schedule
 - ii. AC has put together a google map of all 2022-2024 planting locations
 - iii. Jimmy was working on getting the brining truck cleaned up for watering, AC will check in with him
 - iv. We need to do maintenance inspections and have to form a schedule for people to go check on trees (see4 assignments above)
 - Other options: everyone adopts a tree for the season; getting the public involved (volunteer opportunities for kids); consider making an AHSTC meeting and watering event with short actual meeting/votes and then do tree checks — should we do this for July/August meetings? Should there be a checklist for when we check on our trees?
 - v. AC will share map
 - vi. JM will find out at council meeting if any trees will be added to South Ave. Park now that the new playground is almost done
 - g. South Ave. Park mitigation: someone should circle back with Ken — are there any updates regarding dead plants? Any workarounds in terms of that mitigation signage and accessing or improving the area despite the 100 year mitigation constraints?
 - h. Community Forestry Management Plan: BT needs to reach out to Paul again, with Rich as a possible backup consultant for the project
6. New business:
- a. Should AHSTC send something to the family of the Anne-Luise Petereit who donated and cared for plants in public places around town for many years
 - i. She just passed away, can we apply for a “quiet” tribute tree without all the approvals or even signage?



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- ii. JM suggested flowers
- iii. She did a lot for beautification, a gesture would be nice
- iv. Are tribute tree applications a part of normal correspondence?
- v. Did Fred complete plaque replacement with new plaques featuring QR codes?
AC will reach out to Fred for an update

- vi. Public comment

- vii. Adjournment: BS made a motion to adjourn the meeting; JG seconded the motion; all voted in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm; the next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 7pm

Items not always taken in order