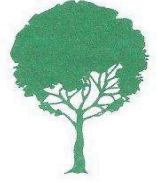




Borough of Atlantic Highlands
Shade Tree Commission



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
March 13, 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, Frank Gargione, Janet Grote, Ed Kinney, Ben Schmoll, Bill Thorne, Mary Trank; James Murphy (council liaison).

Not present: Vito Colasurdo (council liaison).

2. Bill Thorne made a motion to accept the February 2024 minutes; Janet Grote seconded the motion. All others voted in favor.

3. Correspondence: none.

Regarding correspondence, Ashley Cruz said that she would like to know if tree removal requests have been coming into the borough. If so, Shade Tree Commission (STC) would like copies. Councilman Murphy said he would find out and report back.

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

Opening balance	\$14,065.99 (February 15, 2024)
<i>Expenses</i>	0
<i>Deposits</i>	0
Closing balance	\$14,065.99 (March 13, 2024)

5. Old Business:

a. Bill Thorne distributed a draft of the newsletter. He is going to email it to everyone for a final read. We hope to get the newsletter to the post office by April 1st. In advance of finalizing the newsletter, Ashley Cruz is going to ask Borough Administrator Rob Ferragina about one of the articles, the article about “batch management.”

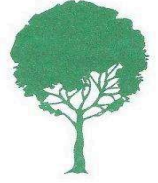
b. Tribute Tree Modernization: Former STC co-chair Fred Callis returned to provide a brief update on the modernization project. The design of the plaque has been modified to reflect the feedback STC provided at the February meeting.

c. Ordinance Update: Co-chairs Ashley Cruz and Bill Thorne attended a NJDEP webinar about state mandated updates to borough stormwater ordinances. Due to the importance of trees in stormwater



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management, every borough will be required to have a “remove and replace” stipulation for trees. Ms. Cruz said the state’s requirement of “remove and replace” is well-timed in that it aligns with revisions to Atlantic Highlands’ tree ordinance that STC will be advocating for. All proposed revisions to the tree ordinance will be ready to go to Mayor and Council in April.

d. Earth Month: On Saturday, April 27th, sapling distribution will take place at borough hall from 10 am-12 pm. At 2 pm, Forester Mary Charlotte Gitlin will be returning with a presentation about native trees and keystone species. Ms. Gitlin’s presentation will take place at AH Arts Council.

e. Arbor Day Tree: Ashley Cruz is going to find out if STC can plant the Arbor Day tree in the jug handle at Highway 36th and First Ave. The group authorized spending up to \$750 to purchase and plant a tree.

f. Arbor Day Poster Contest: Janet Grote has been in contact with AHES Art Teacher Caroline Northrop about the poster contest. The theme is “Healthy Trees, Happy Town.” Submission deadline will be April 29th.

6. New Business:

a. Earth Month/April 27th schedule: STC members committed to be present at the morning sapling distribution and the afternoon speaker.

b. New Jersey Urban and Community Forestry (NJUCF) Accreditation: Ashley Cruz and Bill Thorne explained that attendance at “Core Training” and additional earned CEUs are required to maintain accreditation. Ms. Cruz gave examples of in person educational opportunities available in May. Mr. Thorne added that there are educational webinars available online. We are going to submit Mary Charlotte Gitlin’s outline to NJUCF for approval for CEUs.

c. Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP): Planning for CFMP will begin in the coming months.

7. Public comment: none.

8. Ben Schmoll made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ed Kenney seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.