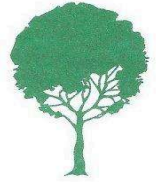




Borough of Atlantic Highlands

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

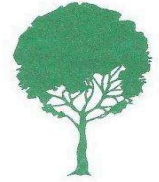
January 16, 2025, 7pm

1. The monthly began at 7:03 pm in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act
 - a. Present: Ashley Cruz, Frank Gargione, Janet Grote, Emily Hackett (new member), Uma Parasar (new member), Ben Schmoll, (tardy) Bill Thorne (virtual, tardy); Eileen Cusack (council liaison)
 - b. Guests: none
 - c. All members introductions themselves for new members and EH/UP each took oath of office
2. Reorganization of Committee – BT motions to keep AC as co-chair; BS seconds, all in favor; AC motions to keep BT as co-chair, JG seconds, all in favor; AC motions to keep FG as secretary, BT seconds, all in favor; AC motions to keep BS as treasurer, JG seconds, all in favor
3. Minutes – BT motions to approve December meeting minutes; AC seconds; all in favor with new members abstaining
4. Correspondence –
 - a. Monmouth County Parks bulletin
 - b. No tree removal permits: Maybe they are no longer coming to us, EC will check on this because we should still be notified and will need information for the year in review report (BT is currently working this, information likely came from Jimmy Phillips last year) and want to see applications
5. Treasurer's Report –
 - a. \$17,851.99 is opening balance
 - b. Expenses of \$1,200.00 (for 2024 stipend payments for secretaries to FG, JG, MT)
 - c. \$16,651.99 is closing balance
 - d. AC motions to approve; BT seconds; all in favor
6. Old Business –
 - e. Tree List: FG presented draft of two pages based on BT's research/list and confirmed that this would be a public list, available on the website: he will share his PDF, BT's list, and appropriate links so everyone can review and we can add species
 - f. CFMP: AC reached out to Davey to modify scope of work to better match budget and also discuss Lenape Woods (even if only cataloging trees of interest) plus a drive-by risk assessment for hazard trees (so AHSTC can help/guide homeowners)



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- i. Narrowed down scope includes an inventory of up to 1200 trees for \$20k and another \$5k for the actual plan (which the grant covers)
- ii. We are assuming we will get the full grant; FG and AC will be working on the grant application needs
- iii. Once we sign, Davey they will have a kick-off meeting that all are welcome to join; once the inventory is done we will have to pay (the borough will need to help before grant reimbursement comes in)
- iv. EC will see if borough needs to see the scope and/or contract
- v. AC makes motion to select Davey; BT seconds; all in favor
- g. Tribute trees: Mayor prioritized trees for Walter Curry and Valerie Freitas
 - i. Are Fred Kallace/Ken Grasso interested in continuing to own this process?
 - ii. AC has the Google map of trees planted in last few years; there is another map on website which includes only ~5 trees that have plaques/bios; those bios should also be on the website (not just the QR codes); FK/KG's list may not be complete and is not mapped; BT will ask Jim ?/Kate ? for their lists, they may have everything we are missing
 - iii. EH offered to help on this
 - iv. Should we re-look at who can be eligible for tribute trees (it's interpretive but there must be a contribution to the town, anyone can make a recommendation)
 - v. Trees for Tomorrow is another fund for regular donors to donate to a general fund where you don't get a tree named after anyone; but we should consider being able to donate a specific tree in someone's name for public property); also doesn't necessarily need to be only for deceased people
 - 1. This is still on the site, and there used to be envelopes at the funeral homes;
 - 2. BT will push this on Facebook
- h. FG will send contact information for everyone via email

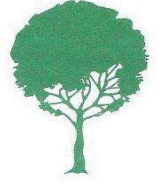
7. New Business – 2025 Goals

- i. February meeting: Begin planning our Arbor Day events, potentially a newsletter (with news on saplings, tree list, ordinance, etc.), calls for community engagement, completed CFMP, completed tree list, hype sapling giveaway; JG is coordinating with Rich Colangelo who may the Feb meeting to discuss ordinance, permits, day to day maintenance
- j. Additional CORE trainings: Open to everyone; a virtual learning seminar on trees/urban forestry will be officially announced soon but is slated for March 1-April 4 (lessons are there on demand plus two one-hour Zoom sessions, anyone who does not have this certification should consider it; AC will share details
- k. First Ave. plan/upgrade update; trees for Hennessy Blvd. between Bay and Center
- l. March reminder to new tree owners on how to care for your new trees (VC is in contact with DEP regarding watering as well)



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8. Public comment (none)

9. Adjournment: AC motions to adjourn the meeting; BS seconds; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm; the next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 7pm