



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 16, 2025, 7pm

1. The monthly began at 7:09pm in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act
 - a. Present: Frank Gargione, Janet Grote, Emily Hackett, Bill Thorne; Eileen Cusack (council liaison)
 - b. Absent: Ashley Cruz, Uma Parasar, Ben Schmoll; Vito Colasurdo (council liaison)
2. Guest, Paul Marcontell, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) talking about their [Liberty Tree](#) initiative
 - a. A voluntary program to commemorate the 250th anniversary of USA with planting tree
 - b. Based on the original "Liberty Tree" in Boston, a place where colonists/patriots gathered; the British took this tree down but it was replanted
 - c. PM is unsure of funding but believes there may be some help/conduits through SAR/DAR; if a tree is planted SAR will provide a plaque
 - d. Trees would be a disease resistant "Princeton" elm, 7-10' tree would be good
 - e. Fairhaven, Highlands, possibly Rumson and Middletown are getting involved
 - f. We would need to price this, determine placement (up to the town, perhaps Hennessey Blvd., Strauss Mansion, Veteran's Park (the logical place but they may be redoing the park) would be the logical place
 - g. JG asked PM about size and help with funding
 - h. PM's cell is 646-322-4438 (he will keep us posted and asked that we do the same)
3. Minutes: BT makes motion to approve May and June minutes, JG seconds, all in favor
4. Correspondence –
 - a. 12+ removal permits, only one site plan, no photos, a lot of "n/a" entries, these are the same ongoing issues and we need to address this ASAP
 - i. Meeting needs to occur with Rob, Rich, AC, EC/VC ASAP
 - ii. Need new/updated forms before having this meeting
 - iii. FG will check AC on the form and maybe she can get something scheduled, FG will also check if EH should keep inputting past forms into the document she is working on, and FG will bring inputted and new forms to AC



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- iv. We must also address unapproved tree removal companies (there should be messaging to tree services too, for awareness; and this requirement needs to be noted on the form)
 - b. EH received Arbor Day forms/package, EC will check if we can fly the flag during April, EH will hold onto materials (FG will also check with AC on Arbor Day materials)
- 5. Treasurer's Report – will review June and July next month when BS is back; EC advised that money will be deposited in August
- 6. Old Business –
 - a. Species List: FG will share draft PDF next month
 - b. CFMP: FG and AC will meet for grant conversation and to move things forward
 - c. Tribute Trees: Still a placeholder
 - d. Tree Removal Form updates: See above, AC will need to share that with us
- 7. New Business –
 - a. Fall tree planting: We need to get the word out:
 - i. Can we add something to the main page of the website?
 - ii. We can also post on the AH/AHSTC Facebook pages and various AH Facebook groups and IG
 - b. We need 8 CEUs for the year so we all need to be on the look out or [webinar opportunities](#)
 - c. Film One Fest/Craft Fair/activities at the Marina are this weekend
- 8. Public Comment – see PM above
- 9. Adjournment: FG motions to adjourn the meeting; JG seconds; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm; the next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 7pm