



*Borough of Atlantic Highlands*  
*Shade Tree Commission*

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

**Atlantic Highlands Shade Tree Commission**

**Meeting Held September 15, 2021**

**Atlantic Highlands Borough Hall**

1. In attendance: Ken Grasso, Fred Callis, Bill Thorne, Rich Lerner, Janet Grote, Ellen O'Dwyer, Mary Trank, Lori Hohenleitner (council liaison).

The monthly meeting was called to order by Ken Grasso at 6:30 pm in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law.

2. NEW BUSINESS (presentation by Mr. Aikins):

256 E. Highland Ave. Tree Pruning Request

Attorney Mark Aikins attended the meeting with residents Paul and Kathy Dolan of 256 E. Highland Ave. Mr. Aikins explained that the Dolans were seeking permission for "crown reduction pruning" on "approximately 25 trees" on Atlantic Highlands (borough property) Lot 12 and Highlands View Associates LLC Lot 24.

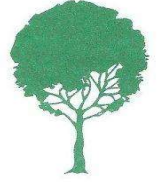
Mr. Aikins explained that Borough Administrator Adam Hubeny told Mr. Aikins the Dolans would need to hire a certified arborist.

The certified arborist, Kevin Slavin, the president of Frontier Tree Company, wrote a proposal dated September 9, 2021, which had been sent to Mr. Hubeny. Mr. Aikins read portions of the proposal to the group. [Attached is the proposal and all other correspondence received regarding this request].

Mr. Dolan said the trees were trimmed by the seller when they bought their property in 2009 and they had the trees trimmed again in 2016. He said this request was one that they expected to make periodically going forward.



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When Mr. Aikins and Mr. and Mrs. Dolan finished their remarks and left the meeting, the commissioners discussed the presentation. Rich Lerner asked if we could retain an independent professional arborist to help us form our opinion in advance of presenting it to the mayor and council. Councilwoman Hohenleitner said we could seek an opinion from an arborist through the borough engineer, Doug Rohmeyer of CME. Ken Grasso is going to ask for photos and a more detailed map of the location of the trees for the proposed pruning.

3. TREASURER’S REPORT -- Bill Thorne

July 15, 2021

Opening balance		\$6,420.87
Expenses		None
Deposits	Fines for damaged Third Ave tree	\$750.00
	Green Communities Grant	\$3,000.00

September 15, 2021

Closing balance		\$10,170.87
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4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Ken Grasso made a motion not to exceed \$4,000 for stump removal and tree maintenance. Rich seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The group discussed where to focus the work--Veterans Park, the Harbor Trail, Center Ave. Park, and First Avenue.

b. Ken Grasso requested an update on the Serviceberry tree for the Center Ave. Park? Yes, it is on hold until after the summer.

c. Bill Thorne made a motion to replace the vandalized tree on Third Avenue with a Village Green Zelkova not to exceed \$750 planted. Ken Grasso seconded the motion.



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d. Regarding an update on Hennessey Blvd. trees: Ken Grasso will discuss with Mike Hufnagel next steps in caring for these improperly planted trees, about which the members remain concerned--should action be taken, what action?

e. Arbor Day Poster contest -- update forthcoming from Councilwoman Hohenleitner

f. A lunch in honor of retired Shade Tree Commissioner Kate Wigginton is in the works for October; she will be provided with several dates from which to choose.

g. Margaret Mika requested a tree planted in memory of her mother. Mary Trank will write to Ms. Mika on behalf of the Shade Tree Commission. For reference, The Policy for Planting of Trees on Borough Property (2014) is attached below.

#### 5. RETURNING TO NEW BUSINESS

a. New Jersey Shade Tree Conference in Cherry Hill--October 21-22. Anyone who wishes to attend, may attend.

b. CEUs opportunities -- the group needs to earn 8 CEUs before the end of the year.

c. Fall planting -- a resident requested that a cherry tree that had been planted in the Spring be removed and a different species cherry tree be planted instead, as they are concerned that the cherry tree planted will be toxic for their dogs. The Shade Tree Commission will not be supplying a replacement tree.

d. It is disappointing to see that trees that were planted on residents' properties in the Spring are dying, presumably because they were not watered following the directions provided. The group will discuss this further before further plantings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. by Ken Grasso.

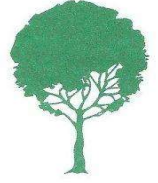
The next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2021.



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**Policy for Planting of Trees on Borough Property (2014)** A policy on the planting of trees on Borough property has been created to assure that the Town's forest is well planned. As part of that plan, the Shade Tree Commission has established a Memorial/Honor Tree Planting Program. Although the STC recognizes that there are many people worthy of having trees planted in their honor, or as a memorial, the ability to plant trees in specific locations is limited; therefore, it is necessary to restrict the planting of those trees to sites that are available and/or appropriate. Plantings in front of Borough Hall will be limited to honoring Borough officials, but requests to plant at other possible Borough sites will be approved on a case-by-case basis. Choices for persons to be honored or memorialized will be chosen from these categories: current or former Borough Officials, Borough Employees, or Appointees to a Borough Committee. The Borough Administrator or Council may make exceptions, under special circumstances.

To request the planting of a tribute tree, an application must be submitted to the Shade Tree Commission, where it will be reviewed, and, if approved, will be forwarded to the Borough Administrator. Forms may be obtained at Borough Hall, the Library and online.

The donation of trees is encouraged, but the Commission and the Borough must approve the site and specimen variety. Suggestions for Borough planted trees will be welcomed with the understanding that funds are not always available. Forms are available at Borough Hall, the Library and online.