

Haddonfield, NJ
Shade Tree Commission (STC)
Regularly Scheduled Meeting
April 19, 2022

Opening / Sunshine Law Reading

- Robin Potter opened the meeting with a reading of the “Sunshine Law” statement at 8:00 AM.
- Shade Tree Commissioners present were Robin Potter (chair), Jane Berkowitz, Scott McElhone, Ralph Ciallella, Ann Koelling, Deb Troiani and Bill Polise as well as DPW Foreman Bill Ober.

Minutes Review

- February and March 2022 Minutes approved.

Correspondence None.

Community comment

Chrysoula Komis, 62 Birchall Drive. Reported dissatisfaction with the removal of her healthy ash tree and her treatment by the Borough Tree Removal Crew. She also requests that residents be notified prior to tree removals and that no trees be planted at her address. Robin apologized for the hasty removal with no notification. She explained that the removals are necessary because of the disease and pest threats to ash trees and were scheduled this way due to limited Borough resources. As a result of tracking the condition of ash trees since 2017, it was determined that removal of all ash trees other than those selected for Emerald Ash Borer pesticide treatment was the best course of action at this time. The STC thanked Ms Komis for bringing the issue to our attention. We will continue to work to improve communications with residents, and we hope she will change her mind in favor of a future tree at her address.

Election of STC Chair

Scott was nominated and elected unanimously. He accepted the role and thanked Robin for leaving the STC in such great condition and strong standing in the State.

DPW update

- Tree removals are in progress. Three bids have been awarded for large tree and stump removals.
- Tree USA signs will be put up on Kings Highway.
- ArborPro upgrade has been selected as the software of choice for maintaining the tree inventory.
- Bill Ober will provide the STC with an updated inventory after the spring planting and takedowns have been completed. Anticipate mid-May.

Construction

507 Farwood Rd. Bill Ober was contacted by Commissioner Frank Troy regarding this new construction. Permission to remove a tree was granted, but the tree has not been removed. Tavis Karrow, Community Development Director, has set a date of Tuesday for the tree to be removed or fee paid.

124 Homestead. Under Sec. 56-10.A. and the associated Fees and Assessments allowed under Sec. 56-10.B of Borough Code the construction office will withhold Certificate of Occupancy until fines are paid.

Spring 2022 planting program

- Planting started yesterday and is expected to be completed next week.

Arbor Day - April 29 - Celebration

- Little Leaf Linden (*Tilia cordata*) will be planted at Central School in memory of Adam Sangillo. Planting is scheduled for 9:30 am. The Rotary Club, Borough Commissioners, The Town Crier and Central School have been invited.

Other

- STC welcomes its newest (returning) member Bill Polise.
- Scott will work on grant writing for redoing the tree inventory using a local arborist.
- Fall Planting. Shade Tree Commissioners should complete reviewing their zones for planting sites by June. The fall planting will focus on small trees and exotics to avoid fall digging hazard associated with large natives. The planting will be paid for by the Shade Tree Escrow Fund, excess funds from Commemorative Tree Fund and possibly the NJ Garden Club grant.
- The STC thanks Robin for her 17 years of service and many improvements to policies and procedures implemented in the effort to protect the Borough tree canopy. A Commemorative Tree will be planted in her honor.

Close of Meeting

- **Meeting adjourned at 9:43AM.**

Submitted By: Deb Troiani

CC: Borough Commissioner Troy, Borough Administrator McCullough, Borough Clerk Bennett, STC Commissioners.