

Borough of Red Bank
Shade Tree Committee
September 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Remedios Quiroz.

Members Present: Boris Kofman, Mike Kosberg, Remedios Quiroz

Absent: Bill Brooks, Debbie Marks

Ex-officio member: Ed Zipprich

Topics Discussed (updates in *italics*)

1. *August 23 meeting could not be approved due to lack of quorum.*
2. Damaged trees – Subject to fine per tree protection ordinance.
 - a. Leighton – someone had cut a root of a big London Planetree while replacing a sidewalk. Code Enforcement involved. Currently in litigation. **Ed** *pointed out to Frank Woods the penalties specified for damaging borough trees.*
 - b. Spring St. (51 Tower Hill Ave) - The contractor used a power tiller completely through the root systems of 3 Boro trees while replacing the sidewalk. Code Enforcement will get back to Remedios with the status.
3. 2015 Road Program. Planting completed, no watering bags installed. Many trees have turned brown. 178 Bridge Ave and 2 in front of River St. Commons appear dying. T&M said they “reached out to the contractor but we have already closed out this contract as complete and final. They have a 2-year maintenance bond and will have to replace the trees if they die.”
4. CFMP. Need to have the next 5-year plan by end of year. The draft has been reviewed, and approved after comments were incorporated. Mayor signed it and Doreen sent it to the state.
5. Tree Bank. Investigate where there was no room to plant a tree to pay into a tree bank. – need an ordinance. **Bill** will bring a copy of the ordinance from other towns for the next meeting. Bill is going to work with Mayor Menna.
6. Recommended species. Consider adding Yellowwood. Added “Green Giant” Arborvitae and Japanese Cedar for buffer. Removed Leyland Cypress and “Emerald Green” Arborvitae. *The list on the web will be updated when the new website launches.*
7. White St streetscaping. Ed and **Debbie** will reach out to RiverCenter to see what landscaping is planned.
8. Zone 1 inventory update – Oct. 1, 3-4:30pm, Eastside Pk

Maintenance/planting requests

1. Globe Ct. Becker has removed all the trees on the list, but the stumps on Globe Court have not been ground yet. DPU has removed the grates, but the pits still need to be widened. The pits should be widened and soil replaced before new trees are planted.
The pits next to the garage have been covered with concrete, and the plants along the garage removed.
Mr. Barrone and Ms. Hintze presented the plans for landscaping. Will be done in 2 stages – fall (planters) and spring (trees). 3 trees on southern half of Globe Ct, 2 on northern (suggest Fastigiata European Hornbeam). Additional plants/trees next to the garage. No replacement on Mechanic St (too close to corner). Will continue the discussion in early spring.
Pears on E. Front St. have been removed.
4 trees planted on Globe Ct. next to the garage wall.
2. 251 Mechanic - Road Program tree is dead. Notified T&M. *Tree has been removed. The replacement should be on High St. Remedios will contact T&M.*
3. 186 River St – resident concerned about the sidewalk lift. DPU willing to cut the roots. The Red Maple, 15” DBH, pruned for overhead wires, otherwise healthy. Michael looked at it. *Remedios responded to DPU that the homeowner is responsible for the sidewalk maintenance.*
4. 59 Madison – homeowner wants to remove the tree because roots are coming up on his front lawn. Boris took a look. Lower branch was pruned last year, tree looks ok. No immediate need to remove. Bill also took a look and agrees. Will revisit when the tree has leafed out.
5. 37 West St. – resident concerned the Crimson King is dying. The lower limb is dead and the rest of the tree has die-back. Placed on the removal list. *Remedios responded in July. Resident requested a replacement.*

6. 181 Spring St – request to plant a tree in the planting strip in front of her house. There's an old Norway Maple with dieback about 15' to the north. Mike took a look and agrees that a tree can fit there. Remedios informed the homeowner.
7. 55-57 South St – Homeowner concerned about sidewalk lift by Red Maple, requesting a meeting. Mike took a look. *Debbie took a look. The homeowner wants the tree removed since they plan on opening widening the apron (entrance to the driveway) to provide another parking space. The driveway is shared. The tree is healthy, no reason to remove it. Remedios will notify the homeowner.*
8. 185-187 Mechanic St – resident concerned that the Norway Maple is diseased and dropping dead branches. Bill and Mike will take a look. Boris took a look. *It doesn't seem to be an eminent hazard, but there's die-back and leaf scorch. Suggest keep an eye on it for now and see how it looks in the spring.*
9. Pinckney Rd near Broad St – Boris asked Kevin Thompson to check the dying Crimson King.
10. 15 Tilton Ave – *The new tree is stressed out. A resident across the street volunteered to fill the water bag.*
11. *Public access path at end of Bank St. – The developer planted 15 red oaks along the path. Four appear dead, the rest are stressed out. There are also mulch volcanos.*
12. *3 Brown Pl. – homeowner would like a tree in the planting strip. The strip is only about 2'.*
13. *17 Washington St. Resident believes the tree is diseased. Boris took a look. It's a crabapple, about 6-in DBH. It's been severely pruned and has exfoliating bark, but no signs of disease. Did minor pruning. Mike will take a look.*
14. *69 East Bergen Pl – homeowner states that the tree has a few branches that are loose causing hazardous conditions. Boris took a look. The London Planetree (3' DBH, under wires) has a basal rot that goes most of the way through the trunk. Per Urban Tree Risk Management (p. 54), a tree like that would need at least 12" of sound shell, and Boris is pretty sure it doesn't. Recommend removing it. Bill will also take a look.*
15. *Garfield Pl - Zelkovas next to Walgreens are dead or dying. Remedios will contact T&M.*
16. *Pruning & removals – Remedios will send Cliff the list and ask which DPU can remove. The rest need to be contracted out.*
17. *Fall planting – 4 trees are requested. Will decide how many can be planted after the maintenance work is priced out.*

Planning/Zoning Board Applications

1. The Courtyard at Red Bank. Propose Green Giant Arborvitae, 10-12' height, 5' on center. STC is OK with it. STC recommends 2 trees on Prospect Ave or on the lawn. Zig proposed Yellowwood. STC subsequently recommended 3 trees on Prospect Ave. Mr. Pannek pointed out that the front yard has a lot of landscaping and the sidewalk would be less than 4' if trees were planted. Mike agreed. Instead of planting threes, Ms. Carvalho proposed contributing \$500 to the Shade Tree Fund in order to plant 2 trees elsewhere in the boro. Remedios said that it would cost about \$700 to plant 2 trees. Ms. Carvalho said they will check with the applicant and get back to us. Mike made a motion to accept \$700 in lieu of planting trees there, seconded by Remedios. Motion passed unanimously. The condo association approved a donation for \$750. Zoning Board approved the application. Remedios will check if the donation has been made.
2. *102 Leighton Ave – no landscape plan, so cannot comment.*

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 18, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Boris Kofman, Secretary

CC: Shade Tree Committee, Mayor & Council, Borough Administrator Stanley Sickels, Planning and Zoning Director Glenn Carter, Public Utilities Director Cliff Keen, Borough Engineer Bill White, Borough Clerk Pamela Borghi