

Borough of Red Bank
Shade Tree Committee
October 18, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 pm by Remedios Quiroz.

Members Present: Bill Brooks, Boris Kofman, Mike Kosberg, Debbie Marks, Remedios Quiroz

Absent:

Ex-officio member:

Topics Discussed (updates in *italics*)

1. *August 23 and September 20 meeting approved.*
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. *The list on the web has been updated with the July 2016 version.*
7. White St streetscaping. Ed and **Debbie** will reach out to RiverCenter to see what landscaping is planned.
8. Zone 1 inventory update – *Did NE part of the zone on October 1. Continue Saturday, October 22, at 3PM in Eastside Park. **Boris** will suggest the streets.*
9. Subpoena addressed to Paul Sullivan. Remedios asked for Borough Attorney advice.

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).
All trees planted – 5 Fastigiata European Hornbeams on Globe Ct, 4 Japanese Tree Lilacs on E. Front. St. Other landscaping around the garage includes Japanese Maples and Arborvitaes.
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. 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.
4. 37 West St. – resident concerned the Crimson King is dying. Resident requested a replacement. *Removed.*
5. 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. Homeowner is planning to plant themselves after getting STC's approval.

6. 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 notified the homeowner. The homeowner still would like to have the tree removed and requested a meeting. We asked Glenn Carter for clarification and advice. Remedios notified the homeowner.
7. 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 keeping an eye on it for now and see how it looks in the spring.
8. Pinckney Rd near Broad St – Boris asked Kevin Thompson to check the dying Crimson King.
9. 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.
10. 3 Brown Pl. – homeowner would like a tree in the planting strip. The strip is only about 2'. **Bill** will find out the ROW to see if it's possible to plant inside the sidewalk.
11. 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.
12. 69 East Bergen Pl – homeowner states that the tree has a few branches that are loose causing hazardous conditions. Boris and Bill took a look. Placed on removal list. **Bill** will ask JCP&L to prune below wires.
13. Garfield Pl - Zelkovas next to Walgreens are dead or dying. **Remedios** will contact T&M.
14. Pruning & removals – Remedios sent Cliff the list. DPU removed all except 69 E. Bergen and 63 Madison (JCP&L needs to remove the guy wire first). The rest need to be contracted out.
15. 37 Fisher Pl. – homeowner requested a tree.
16. 48 Bank St. – requested no replacement tree.
17. 234 E. Front St. – asked County to look at the dying Maple
18. N. Prospect Ave – resident emailed about the trees being removed on the bulkhead. **Debbie** will ask Cliff if he knows anything about it.
19. Fall planting – 6 trees are requested. **Boris** will get quotes.
20. Come up with a selection of trees for typical small lots that the Planning&Zoning Dept can give to applicants. – **Bill & Mike**.

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. 116-118 Chestnut St – Architectural plans show 4 trees on Oakland St, while there are none in the Landscape Plan. Appears there's room for 2. **Bill** will ask Dina for paper plans.
3. 41 Bank St. – recommend a small deciduous tree in the backyard (from Tree Species Recommendation).
4. Hampton Inn – no trees along sidewalk. Room for about 5 trees. **Bill** will ask Dina for paper plans.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 15, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 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