

Borough of Red Bank
Shade Tree Committee
January 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes
DRAFT

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

Members Present: Michele Brody, Bill Brooks, Boris Kofman, Debbie Marks, Brigid McCarthy, Remedios Quiroz, Carolyn Robertshaw

Absent:

Ex-officio member: Nancy Facey-Blackwood

Guests:

Topics Discussed (updates in *italics*)

1. *The Sunshine Law compliance statement was read.*
2. *Officer election. Remedios – Chair, Bill – Vice-Chair, Boris – Secretary.*
3. *Appointments. Brigid and Remedios were appointed as regular members, Michele and Carolyn as alternate members. We thank Joanna Rovito and Samantha Flores-Castillo for their service on STC.*
4. *December 17 meeting minutes approved.*
5. *Training. Brigid, Michele and Boris attended webinars*
6. *Tree inventory. The updated inventory is online. Will start Zone 5 in the spring.*
7. *White St Parking Lot. STC will pay for approximately four trees. STC will be under the amount for going out for bid. Planning on planting 4.5" caliper Brownback Southern Magnolias. Bill had contacted 3 contractors, but none of them responded. Bill suggests having the contractor move the existing trees to Bellhaven. Remedios sent the draft replanting plan to Terrence for confirmation of the activities marked DPU. Terrence responded that DPU can handle it, with appropriate coordination. Bill recommends having a bid spec written and hiring a contractor because DPU won't have the resources. **Bill** volunteered to write a bid spec. This should be done in time for spring planting.*
8. *JCP&L completed their routine tree work. Trees on West St, Broad St, Drs. Parker Blvd were pruned. The trees on Broad St were over-pruned in Bill's opinion. Bill contacted JCP&L Forestry.*
9. *Website. It has been updated, but more updates are still needed. **Remedios** will follow up.*
 - a. *Procedure for requesting permission to plant their own tree in the Right of Way (FAQ #3). The request form is just a PDF. How is it going to get submitted? And the links for selecting a species and uploading a picture are not active.*
 - b. *Add link to the new tree ordinance.*
 - c. *Remove outdated info.*
10. *Marine Park planned tree removals for building a playground. 12 trees would be removed. 2 of them are in fair condition, the rest are in good condition. This doesn't include the trees that will be removed in the old parking lot. The public hearing is on Thursday. STC would like to see a qualified arborist's assessment of the condition of the trees. Is re-grading required?*
11. *State Annual Accomplishments Report – Remedios submitted it.*
12. *Tree City USA application – Remedios asked the mayor to sign it.*
13. *Green Fair on April 10. STC will have a table. We'll order Yellowwood seedlings (30 for \$75) from **NJ Forestry**. **Remedios** will ask the CFO to issue a PO.*
14. *Outreach goal for the year - encourage tree plantings on private property. STC can use the new borough online tool to share info with the public.*
15. *CFMP – expires at the end of this year. We'll update it ourselves. Bill will check if there is anything we should include related to the new tree ordinance.*

Maintenance/planting requests

1. *Globe Garage Trees – Joanna asked the hospital if they could water the new trees. They replied they don't have the resources to water the trees. We'll ask them to replace the dying trees and ask DPU to water them. **Debbie** will follow up.*
2. *27 St Nicholas Place - resident requests to remove the tree that's going to the sewer. Per Boris' inspection the tree has a lot of issues: there's a large canker on the trunk, a fruiting body at grade and one limb has cankers. Boris recommends removal of the limb. Bill recommends the removal of*

- the tree due to the root issue. STC agrees to have it removed. *Remedios notified Terrence.*
3. 4 McLaren St. The property owner contacted DPU *and then STC* about removing the Red Maple because it is raising the sidewalk. According to Bill, the lift is minimal. *STC recommends smoothing out the sidewalk with concrete. Remedios will follow up.*
 4. Trees on Bridge Ave - Debbie reported that someone was breaking the branches of the two recently planted trees. Boris pruned the broken branches.
 5. 56 Harding Rd - they were improperly pruned. We don't know by whom. Boris suggested STC may want to ask the Borough to send a letter to the homeowner explaining that public trees may not be touched. Bill volunteered to draft the language.
 6. 74 W Front St. Bill recommends removing the London Planetree. It has a basal rot and dead limbs and has been dropping limbs. Bill contacted the County, and they put it on the worklist.
 7. All trees on Broad St will be treated with gypsum by DPU.

Public Comments

Planning/Zoning Board Applications

1. Shawna shared the deposits made into the Shade Tree Trust this year. We are still missing the status of some development applications. Remedios will follow up.

No Updates

1. Tree Inventory. Zone 5 will be done in 2025.
2. County trees. Bill is working with the County Div. of Shade Tree on getting hazardous trees removed. DPU will try to remove the ones they can. The County is ok with that. We'll let the county know when we remove one of their trees.
3. Terrence to update the maintenance list. Terrance is getting a quote for tree removals.
4. Hazardous trees survey. Bill is working on it.
5. Broad St. Project. Long term plan – enlarge the tree pits and put in better soil; root pruning and planting smaller trees. River Center is willing to help financially with the replanting.
6. English Plaza. No action has been taken since we made the recommendations 2 years ago. Of the 8 Serviceberries planted there in 2019, only one is in decent shape. 3 have been removed, 3 are dead, and one is dying. Remedios sent a follow up email and copied Bob Zuckerman. The project engineer is looking into it. She has not received a response from the developer. Remedios followed up.
7. Eastside Park
 - a. Arborvitae planted by contractor has been removed. Need replacement. Terrence
 - b. Three trees were over pruned. To be fertilized again when they go dormant and before a snowstorm or significant rain.
8. 56 Leighton Ave. Homeowner expressed concerns: "limbs are growing into the overhead power lines, roots are lifting up the sidewalk causing an unsafe pedestrian walking condition, and roots have grown into the septic service at 60 Leighton Ave." Bill or DPU will investigate the condition of the cavities.
9. Spring Planting. The new trees planted at 131 Oakland St, 232 Drs. Parker Blvd and 58 Locust Ave are dead. All three trees should be replaced under the warranty. STC recommends doing it by May 1, 2025. Remedios notified Terrence.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00 PM.
Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Boris Kofman, Secretary