

Borough of Red Bank
Shade Tree Committee
April 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes

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

Members Present: Bill Brooks (part of meeting), Boris Kofman, Mike Kosberg, Debbie Marks (on the phone – part of meeting), Remedios Quiroz

Absent:

Ex-officio member: Councilman Erik Yngstrom

Guest: DPU Director Cliff Keen

Topics Discussed (updates in *italics*)

1. *March 21, 2017 meeting minutes approved.*
2. Tree Bank. Investigate where there was no room to plant a tree to pay into a tree bank. – need an ordinance. Bill brought a copy of the ordinance from Rumson. *Reviewed it with the Borough Attorney.*
3. Bill reported that Red and Black Oaks are susceptible to a fungus. A mature tree in Fair Haven, with no visible external issues, fell due to core rot. Mature Red Bank trees, especially Red Oaks and Sycamores should be examined. Bill is working with Cliff. Suggest doing a windshield survey of all public trees. *DPU put it in the budget.*
4. CFMP – need to get the Planning Board to add it to the Master Plan. Remedios will follow up.
5. Zone 2 inventory update – will start in spring.
6. Marine Park construction – Erik requested DPU to protect the trees. Cliff will follow up. Bill will follow up. *Trees are protected. There's a protective layer over the roots.*
7. Tree City USA. Boris applied online.
8. West Side Lofts – Chris Cole will present the revised landscape plan in the next few weeks.
9. 2015 CSIP Grant. Tree inspection scheduled for May 12.
10. CEUs.
11. Arbor Day. *Plant tree(s) at the Middle School. Two teachers will participate. Debbie and Mike will participate. Debbie got commitment from RBBEF for a grant if needed. Mike is trying to get a donation from a nursery. Mike will do the planting if necessary. Bill couldn't get trees donated. Arbor Day Proclamation will be read by the mayor at the next Council meeting.*
12. Princeton STC Info Sheet – Bill shared. Debbie will see if it can be used for RB.
13. Fortune Square – 2 London Planetrees on ROW removed, per site plan.
14. *Trees damaged on Monmouth St. A dozen young trees had limbs ripped off over several days. An individual was arrested, and the case referred to the County Prosecutor. Assess that 2 the trees will not survive.*
15. National Night Out (August) – Cliff offered to put tree info on the DPU table.
16. *Cliff requested that we think about inhibiting the growth of large trees in small spaces.*

Maintenance/planting requests

1. 251 Mechanic - Road Program tree is dead. Notified T&M. Tree has been removed. The replacement should be on High St. Remedios contacted T&M. Eric is following up.
2. 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. Remedios notified T&M. Eric is following up.
3. Garfield PI - Zelkovas next to Walgreens are dead or dying. Remedios notified T&M. Eric is following up.
4. 185-187 Mechanic St – resident concerned that the Norway Maple is diseased and dropping dead branches. Boris looked. 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.
5. 55-57 South St. Homeowner wants the Red Maple removed in order to have access to the new parking space. Neither Planning/Zoning Dept nor DPU gave him permit to build 2nd driveway.
6. Pruning & removals – 69 E. Bergen removed, all on the list have been pruned. 63 Madison - JCP&L needs to remove the guy-wire first. Bill talked to JCP&L. Verizon & Comcast also need to move their wires.
7. Spring planting – 11 trees (7 Black Tupelos, 4 Serviceberries) have been planted. **Need to put watering bags on them.**

8. Come up with a selection of trees for typical small lots that the Planning & Zoning Dept can give to applicants. – **Bill & Mike**.
9. 135 Harding Rd – homeowner is concerned about the heavy branches along the sidewalk. Remedios responded. **Bill** will take a look after the trees leaf out.
10. 22 Wallace St – homeowner concerned about the sidewalk lift by the Honeylocust. May be able to cut the top root. Need to lift the sidewalk and look. **Bill** met with and **Cliff** about the lifted sidewalk policy. **Cliff** will follow up with the borough administration.
11. 26 E. Westside Ave – homeowner says the pear is consistently damaged by vehicles and believes that recent damage will cause the tree to die. **Boris** doesn't believe the damage was bad enough to make the tree hazardous. A small limb was torn off, but the trunk wound is less than 1/3 of the circumference. It did make the tree unbalanced, so pruning some of the lower branches on the sidewalk side may be good. <https://goo.gl/photos/hDQHwJgYBfCqC6YTA>
12. 17 Buena Pl. Homeowner concerned that the roots of the Bradford Pear are cracking the sidewalk. The sidewalk was last patched up by a handy man. The lift is minimal. Advised the homeowner to replace the sidewalk using a reputable contractor. **Debbie** will advise the homeowner not to damage the tree. *Boris ran into the homeowner, who indicated she may be willing to pay for removing the Bradford Pear, so a nicer tree can be planted. She complained about the mess the berries make. Boris observed that there's rot in the crotch, as well as [in the limbs](#). **Debbie** will follow up on the offer to pay for the removal.*
13. Count Basie Park - Nissan on Newman Springs Rd indicated that some trees on the park side of the may be hazardous. *Bill reported that 4 trees need to be removed. DPU got a quote. DPU will pay for the work.*
14. *BOE building. London Planetree needs to be removed. DPU is handling it.*
15. 246 Drs Parker. Resident concerned about the condition of the London Planetree.
16. 49 Locust Ave. Homeowner of 53 Locust complained about the tree roots damaging the sewer line. *The tree will be removed.*
17. 44 Throckmorton Ave. Homeowner concerned about the condition of the Red Maple. **Mike** reports: One of the leaders was damaged from a storm and the top 3 feet of what remains is dead. Poses no imminent danger. Rest of the tree is vigorous and healthy. Recommend pruning away the leader with the dead top for overall safety and aesthetics. **Mike** will look again, now that It has leafed out.
18. 2 or 4 Alston Ct. Private tree appears hazardous. **Mike** will look.

Planning/Zoning Board Applications

1. Lunch Break – no impact.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 16, at 7:00 PM. *Remedios will not attend.*

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 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 Gregory Valesi, Borough Clerk Pamela Borghi