

Borough of Red Bank  
Shade Tree Committee  
May 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Bill Brooks.

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

Absent: Remedios Quiroz

Ex-officio member: Councilman Erik Yngstrom

Guest: None

**Topics Discussed** (updates in *italics*)

1. *April 18, 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. *Still being reviewed.*
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 the spring. Boris will create lists.
6. Tree City USA. *Received the designation (11<sup>th</sup> year). Boris put the stickers on the road signs.*
7. West Side Lofts – Chris Cole will present the revised landscape plan in the next few weeks.
8. 2013 CSIP Grant. *Tree inspection conducted on May 12. Just one tree had a serious issue (most branches had been ripped off.) Many trees should be mulched.*
9. CEUs. *Boris attended a webinar on May 10 (1 CEU).*
10. Arbor Day. *Ceremony at the Middle School: two 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes participated; planted a tree; Mayor and School Principal attended; Debbie represented STC. RBBEF paid for the tree; DPU planted it. Arbor Day Proclamation was read by the mayor at the last Council meeting. The Tree City USA banner was flown at the Borough Hall.*
11. Princeton STC Info Sheet – Bill shared. Debbie will see if it can be used for RB.
12. 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.
13. National Night Out (August) – Cliff offered to put tree info on the DPU table.
14. Cliff requested that we think about inhibiting the growth of large trees in small spaces. Some species react well, others don't.
15. Middle School trees. *Bill was asked by the District to look at them. Several trees are hazardous. Bill will send them the assessment.*
16. RBPD asked Bill to look at a tree near RBMS that has low branches. *Bill proposed thinning it out.*

**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. Mike will 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Boris took a look. There is a large cavity in the pruning wound. Will keep an eye on it.
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. **Bill** will look.
19. 130-132 Broad St – owner asked if they can cut the two lower limbs on the London Planetree. They will be installing light fixtures there and the limbs are close to the building. Boris reported that the lower 2 branches are fairly small, so removing them won't be a big stress on the tree, as long as the work is performed by a professional. <https://goo.gl/photos/P5ZBoCdiphBNPnRf9>  
We should see the picture of the limbs they want to remove.
20. *Broad St. - London Planetree next to the parking lot across from Peters Pl. is dying.* <https://goo.gl/photos/3QFu6SYtvuBd31T8A>

### **Planning/Zoning Board Applications**

1. *Count Basie Theatre. Emerald Green Arbovitae is not an appropriate tree for the street tree.*

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 20, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 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