

Borough of Red Bank
Shade Tree Committee
July 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Remedios Quiroz.

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

Absent:

Ex-officio member: Ed Zipprich

Topics Discussed (updates in *italics*)

1. *June 21 meeting minutes approved.*
2. Subpoena for STC re: trees on east side of Globe Court – *all requested info provided to Pam Borghi.*
3. 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.*
 - 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.*
4. 2013 CSIP Grant. Initial inspection passed.
 - a. Some Elms had insects in wounds. Recommendation: consult CTE or Certified Arborist. *Boris sent an RFQ to a CTE, Doug Kniss, and subsequently met with him. Mr. Kniss was going to send a quote for \$100, but it never came. Now the insects are gone.*
 - b. Need to remove soil/mulch around root collars.
 - c. Need to fill out payment form to get 60% - done. Final inspection will be in a year, after which the remaining 40% will be paid.
5. 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. Debbie took pictures. *Debbie will ask T&M to have watering bags installed on all trees, and DPU to fill them regularly.*
6. 2014 Road Program. The trees have a plastic barrier all around the root ball. T&M claims it's a root barrier, but if so, it should be only on the sidewalk side and should be above grade. *Bill investigated – seems there's no bottom.*
7. CFMP. Need to have the next 5-year plan by end of year. The draft has been reviewed, and approved after comments were incorporated. *Remedios asked Doreen to send it to the state.*
8. 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.*
9. Recommended species. Consider adding Yellowwood. *Added "Green Giant" Arborvitae and Japanese Cedar for buffer. Removed Leyland Cypress and "Emerald Green" Arborvitae.*
10. White St streetscaping. *Ed and Debbie will reach out to RiverCenter to see what landscaping is planned.*
11. Training - *i-Tree Landscape Workshop - July 20.*

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. *Remedios will check with the hospital.*
The hospital would also like to prune back the trees touching the garage. *Per Borough Administrator, the hospital is responsible for their maintenance.*
2. 251 Mechanic - Road Program tree is dead. Notified T&M again.
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 will respond 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. 131 Bridge Ave – Zelkova has vertical cracks. *Should be removed.*

6. 170 Branch Ave – resident concerned that the tree in front of his house could cause damage if it were to fall. DPU determined that the tree is in fact the responsibility of the resident and that he should reach out to Shade Tree for possible assistance on having this removed. Remedios will respond that STC doesn't have jurisdiction.
7. 37 West St. – resident concerned the Crimson King is dying. The lower limb is dead and the rest of the tree has die-back. Will be placed on the removal list. Remedios will respond.
8. 17 Harrison – leaves are turning dark green and then brown – Remedios reported. *Mike took a look – no action recommended at this time. Other Overcup Oaks on Harrison have similar symptoms.*
9. Maple Ave – tree has broken branches – Lou reported .
10. 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 will inform the homeowner.*
11. 55-57 South St – Homeowner concerned about sidewalk lift by Red Maple, requesting a meeting. *Mike will take a look.*

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 three, 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.*
2. *94 Drs. Parker Blvd (Fortune Square). Substitute for Barberrry (invasive) with native species. Replace Leyland Cypress and Emerald Green Arborvitae (poor snow load tolerance) with Green Giant Arborvitae, Easter Red Cedar and/or Japanese Cedar.*

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 16, at 7:00 PM. (Boris will be away)

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 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