

Borough of Red Bank  
Shade Tree Committee  
August 23, 2016 Meeting Minutes

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

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

Absent: Mike Kosberg

Ex-officio member: Ed Zipprich

Guests: Anthony Barone (Engineering Manager), Sheila Hintze (Senior Manager, Operations) - Riverview Medical Center

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

1. *July 19 meeting minutes 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 will follow up.**
  - 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. Added “Green Giant” Arborvitae and Japanese Cedar for buffer. Removed Leyland Cypress and “Emerald Green” Arborvitae. *Asked Pam to update the list on the web.*
7. White St streetscaping. Ed and **Debbie** will reach out to RiverCenter to see what landscaping is planned.
8. Meeting minutes – Pam offered to place them on the borough web site.

**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). On *W. Front St.* – **Bill** will talk to Kevin Thompson about replacing the 4 pears. Will continue the discussion in early spring.*
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. 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 responded that STC doesn’t have jurisdiction.**
6. 37 West St. – resident concerned the Crimson King is dying. The lower limb is dead and the rest of the tree has die-back. Placed on the removal list. **Remedios** will respond.

7. Maple Ave – tree has broken branches – Lou reported .
8. 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.
9. 55-57 South St – Homeowner concerned about sidewalk lift by Red Maple, requesting a meeting. **Mike** will take a look.
10. 33-35 Prospect Ave – homeowner requested to have the crown raised. Boris took care of it.
11. 185-187 Mechanic St – resident concerned that the Norway Maple is diseased. **Bill** will take a look.
12. Resident wants to know why trees were removed on Globe Ct.

### **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. Need to check if the donation has been made.*
2. 205 South Pearl St. – no landscape plan, so cannot comment
3. Buona Sera – updated application. No comment – changes don't affect trees.
4. 41 Bank St. – no landscape plan, so cannot comment.

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 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