



**Bradley Beach Shade Tree Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – Meeting Held Via Zoom
Wednesday, January 6, 2021**

1. Call to Order at 7:03 PM
2. Roll Call. *Present:* George Heflich - Chair, Shana Greenblatt – Vice-Chair, Summer Deaver - Secretary, Larry Bagwell, MJ Corkery; Al Gubitosi and John Weber - Council Liaisons
3. Ratification of Minutes
 - 12-16-20
Motion to accept Shana, 2nd - Larry; all voted in agreement.
4. Election of Officers:
 - Chair: George Heflich - Shana nominated; 2nd Summer; all voted yes
 - Vice-Chair: Summer nominated Shana Janoff; 2nd by Larry, all voted yes
 - Appointment of Secretary: Summer Deaver
5. Ordinance Amendments:

Councilmen Al Gubitosi and John Weber indicated that Greg Cannon has everything suggested. John will suggest introducing ordinance amendments for next meeting Jan. 12 and anticipate it will be on the agenda for 1/26 meeting. Two Public meetings required to pass.
6. Tree Expert
 - 2020 Final Invoice of \$125 being processed.
 - 2021 RFP - Shelterwood Mr. Brash was voted in as the 2021 Tree Expert, he was the most cost-effective applicant and has already worked very well with us. He was elected by a 5-0 vote. Shana thanked Dave Brown for negotiating a more affordable fee for us. BB does not do retainers upfront. Rate will be \$110/hr.
 - Waiting to hear back from Mrs. Rice about expenditures re: temporary budget for this year before the budget is approved in April. John Weber said expenses will not be an issue.



- Discussion of Liability coverage as it relates to CFMP. CFMP requires annual CEU units and Core training of members; CFMP provides a level of liability coverage for the Borough. John Weber will look to confirm the degree of coverage from this 5-year plan.
- Shana will ask Mr. Brash about CFMP liability coverage as well.
- Next Focuses
 - Accomplishment Report- Deadline- Feb. 15. Shana will follow up with Mr. Brash.
 - CSIP Grant (RFP out in 2021 Q1) – Inventory and Planting MJ and Shana will speak to Mr. Brash about grant after RFP comes out.
The Borough Tree Survey will be a goal of the grant.

7. Education

- Spring Lake Pruning Seminar- January 9th: Mr. Brash will be teaching. George indicated that CEU credits will be given. John, Shana and George will attend. Summer and MJ would like to attend if space is available.
- *Tree Death in Cities: A Review of Urban Mortality Literature* George referenced Jim Sharrock (Belmar STC) as guest at this meeting. Shana commented on % of trees that live past 7 years with maintenance have a higher survival rate in communities with hands on support and maintenance. Taking care of the trees after they're planted is a great program for teens/Eagle scout (community service credit). Bradley doesn't do any tree maintenance. What is the commission's position on maintenance? Most grants provide funding for planting, but not for maintenance.
- *NEXT- A Basic Introduction to Tree Root Biology in the Built Environment*
- Shana suggested to invite Mr. Brash to lead a workshop on pruning in the spring in Bradley Beach.



8. Applications

- New

- 20-018: 518 Newark Ave - Commission agreed the sidewalk was not strongly affected and difficult to determine the health of the tree. The Commission agreed that the tree expert is needed to evaluate. Shana will ask if Commission can tag along and learn.

Al Gubitosi presented the idea that the sidewalks are not in the best condition in the town and had concerns regarding the commission's liability in this case. Is it the Borough's responsibility to fix sidewalks? STC can be eyes for the council to repair sidewalks. Satisfy sidewalk safety along with saving the tree.

Al and John will talk to Biagio about sidewalk repair.

Larry suggested cut out sidewalk around roots.

Work with DPW on collaboration around sidewalks. We have a very competent DPW in town with contractor skills.

Final Disposition: The Tree Expert is to evaluate the property.

General Discussion:

If the tree is dead, the homeowner can take it down and repair the sidewalk. As it is the Boro's property, the Boro can replant in the planting strip. Homeowner needed to care for and water tree. Focus on who wants trees. There was concern with those who may not want a tree in the strip and consequently may not take proper care.

Shana: we are keeping a log of how many trees are removed and replaced. With tree inventory, we can assess what street blocks are barren. Tree planting will happen in groups.

Decisions will be made based on tree inventory. Also consider notating sidewalk issues as a component of tree inventory.

- 20-019: 412 Lorraine - 3 trees removed on the lot cleared where a new house will be built. The applicant states that 1



tree was dead. There are existing smaller trees that the applicants say are replacement for the other 2 trees they took down. It appears the Tree in the planting strip was planted 1-3 years ago. There is a 2nd tree planted in the back right corner of the plot that appears newer. There was a large tree on the back of the property that was (approx.) 18" in diameter at the base. The old tree list was included with the application. It is hard to tell if trees were alive or dead. John, George, Summer, Larry agreed that the applicant should plant 1 new replacement tree. If the owners need to extend beyond the required year to replace, the STC will acknowledge and monitor.

Final Disposition: Applicant to plant 1 additional replacement Tree.

Commission received old information regarding property ownership. John to follow up.

John Weber suggested we learn from Mr. Brash about how to assess a tree, specifically in the winter months.

Shana suggested the commission host "Ask the expert hour" with the community at the beginning or end of a meeting and eventually outdoors.

- Existing
 - 20-017 - 508 Fourth Ave: Has been approved by the STC.
Final Disposition: A phone call was made, and a letter sent to the applicants.
 - 20-011 - 416 Park Place: This was previously approved for 2 planting strip trees to be removed. The trees were removed, but not the stumps.
Final Disposition: A letter was sent reminding the applicants of the need for stump removal.
 - 20-013 - 609 Hammond: A tree was removed from the planting strip, the stump remains.
Final Disposition: George will send a stump removal letter



- 218 Park Place: 10-12 trees were removed without an application. This property is owned by a trust. A 2nd certified letter was sent to the NYC address, which we obtained from Tax records. We extended the deadline to 1/15/21. Larry counted 12 stumps total removed as it appears that subsequent tree removal took place. There was a bulldozer in driveway.

Final Disposition: The tree expert is to evaluate the property. We will discuss at the next meeting the next steps to take.

Shana raised the issue to reaffirm consideration of tree contractors registering in town, referencing that Larry had previously spoken with the tree contractor, who was non-receptive.

- 207 Newark Ave. - Back yard tree was taken down by the homeowner with a chainsaw. No application was submitted to the STC. Summer will confirm the address
Final Disposition: George will send a certified letter once the address is confirmed.
- 405 Beach Ave.- Sidewalk issues. Application is currently being submitted. MJ reports two squares of the sidewalk were taken up by tree roots.
Final Disposition: The Tree Expert will evaluate the property.

9. Mission Statement: We will decide at the next meeting. George will send to councilmen for review.

10. Forms

- Application: We added "c/o code official" into the return address and removed "Lot/Block" in the address line.
- John Weber suggested providing a sample of how we want the application filled out. This will be drafted and added to the STC site.



11. Phase II

- Outreach to Borough and Outside Organizations
 - DPW
 - Construction/Planning/Zoning Boards
 - Verizon/JCP&L
 - Monmouth Cnty Shade Tree Comm./NJ Shade Tree Engineers
 - Code Official/Board Engineer
 - Local Contractors
 - Tree Removal Companies: ATL. HGLNDS requires registration
John reported having spoken with Board Engineer and Code Officials about the STC Ordinance. Larry and George to follow

It was suggested that we consider sending the STC Ordinance information to Tree removal companies via Certified mail as an alternative to requiring contractor registration with Borough.

Shana noted that we prioritize Phase II work to be completed within the next month. We will go back and forth on updates by the next meeting.

12. Phase III - Community Outreach

- Sewer Bill Mailing: Flyer will tell homeowner what the new ordinance will say with flow chart. Volunteers needed for tomorrow to stuff envelopes. Volunteers are available Friday. George will follow up for best procedure, due to Covid-19. Summer, George, Shana and John available Friday to stuff envelopes. There are approx. 2,300 envelopes that go out.
- Outline Updates – none
- Social Media – John has set up a FB page. Asked that everyone regularly go on, comment and “like.” Photos should go to Summer for Instagram, articles best for FB.
- Community Garden – no further updates except mention of a potential dog park as well as interest in Community Garden for the park area on Lake Terrace.
- Arbor Day – Summer shared a presentation she prepared “Why Trees are Important” which she will be presenting to BBES Science students, grades 5 and 7 on Thursday, 1/7. In collaboration with the



Art teacher, students will be participating in a tree drawing competition. The winning picture will be used for Arbor day logo wear (t-shirts or other items) and pictures may be used for other events and Social Media.

13. Commission Comments

- None

14. Council Comments

- Councilmen Gubitosi and Weber thanked the Commission for their continued hard work.
George thanked the liaisons for their continued attendance and support.

15. Public Comments

- Peter Sharpe - suggested that the STC provide the cost per tree for a commercial firm to bring and plant as tree (if an applicant cannot do it themselves) George will call and figure out fee for homeowner.
- Rich Despins - Thanked the Commission for their continued hard work.

16. Close – Shana made a motion to close; seconded by MJ. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Summer Deaver
1/6/21