

## Meeting Notes for the BB Shade Tree Commission - February 17, 2021



1. Call to Order at 7:02 PM.
2. Roll Call
  - Chairman- George Heflich
  - Vice Chairperson- Shana Greenblatt
  - Secretary- Summer Deaver
  - Larry Bagwell
  - Ravi Maruvada
  - Liaison- Al Gubitsi
  
  - MJ Corkery -Absent
3. Ratification of Minutes
  - 2-3-21 Motion made, seconded and approved
4. Organizations
  - Tree City USA: Shana submitted the application on 2/8.
  - Arbor Day Foundation Alliance for Community Trees: Opportunities for education and grants. \$125 membership fee. Motion to submit by Shana, seconded by Summer. All members voted in favor.
5. Grants
  - CSIP Grant (RFP out in 2021 Q1) – Inventory and Planting: Shana reached out to Mr. Brash about RFP. Inventory is costly, potentially \$100/tree, 6-week dedicated process. A necessary endeavor. Is grant awarded to communities like ours? Forestry Service was asked and advised the Commission that the RFP will be out by 4/1, with 60 days to submit. We are positioned to be considered for a CSIP grant.
  - The William J. Porter Community Tree Project Award: MJ will fill us in on this at a future date.
6. Forms
  - Ordinance Revisions: Al Gubitsi shared that the revisions were to be adopted, with a question to the definition of the word “street”. Bill Psuik, from the planning board, referenced an issue that sprinklers were prohibited in planting strips. There was debate whether sprinklers should be prohibited. Council agreed that the sprinklers in the planting strip should be the full responsibility of the owner. Neither the borough nor the commission is liable for sprinklers in the planting strip. Anything placed in the planting strip is at the risk of the owner. Further, it was agreed that this should remain as is in the Ordinance.

- Application- Mr. Cannon approved the new section on the application for applicants to now sign-off on permission to have the commission enter onto property to inspect trees.
- New Additions have been added to the STC webpage for tree maintenance and resources which we received from Monmouth County.

## 7. Applications

- Potential
  - \_\_\_Third Certified Letter received on 1-28-21. The deadline for submitting an application was 2/10. This is the Commissions' first encounter with a violation of the ordinance. Ordinance states a 10-day notification to comply, and based on size of tree, the resident would be required to replace 1 tree or submit \$500 to tree fund. If we do not receive a reply at that point, it would go to municipal court. **George will send a certified letter.**
  - 523 Burlington Ave.- along Pacific Ave. Power Lines are growing through the branches. First Energy has a link for complaints. They send a forester first to review the situation. The commission wants to avoid having these young trees taken down. First Energy has the final say in tree removal. **George will notify the homeowner of this process.**
  - Al Gubitosi suggested we find out what the JCPL contract is and encourage the Boro, via Dave Brown, to include in the contract that the trimming of trees be more balanced and holistic. **Al will speak with Dave Brown about formalizing an agreement with the power companies, and involve the commission in the process.**

## 8. Phase III-Community Outreach

- Borough Sign at the Town Hall: Check before you chop. If you are taking a tree down, you must fill out an application.
- Arbor Day- April 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Tree Planting- Park/Dune: Mr. Brash has been asked about suggestions for planting in dunes.
  - Start a tradition of the outgoing BBES class to have a tree planted in their honor.
    - Salem Oak seedling is not happening this year.
  - Free seedlings- Bare Root 6-24" seedlings. We need to care for these baby trees. Application for seedlings is due Feb. 25. John Weber will inquire with B.A. Brown as to how many were ordered last year. It was suggested we create educational materials to go with giveaways. Perhaps this will be part of May Day in the park.
- **Thomas Coan will look into what the Alliance is doing for May Day.**

- Thomas Coan noted that the greenhouse was not built to be an ecological greenhouse with heat.
  - Maritime Forest lost trees and there may be an opportunity to collaborate. Al Gubitosi said we have a 10-year grant for planting free of charge. Coordinate the dedication ceremony with Arbor Day/ May Day.
- Activities
    - Students' Art Project
- Initiatives
    - Town Property behind 7 Main Street: Biagio asked George to take a look at this location as an opportunity to plant a line of 10 or so trees (maybe "memorial" trees), to make it more beautiful from the street. DPW would cover the cost of the trees and work in collaboration with us. Large heritage trees could grow here!!
    - Elm Tree Offer: Ravi found a cheaper offer through Arbor Day Foundation.
    - Dedication/Memory Trees: Mr. Coan suggested the STC could send a letter to acknowledge the planting of a tree in honor of a loved one. Make an event out of it. A suggestion that donations could accumulate to a certain amount before we planted a tree. Administrative details need to be established. We need to determine the cost of the tree. Simplicity in administration for a volunteer commission is the most efficient way. TJ and Al agree no plaques.
    - Planting Strip Donor Sites for replants
    - Community Garden

## 9. Phase II- Outreach to Borough and Outside Organizations -

- DPW – Shana and George to meet with Biaggio (DPW)
- Planning/Zoning Boards/Board Engineer - Larry to create a presentation and meet with the boards
- Other Committees
  - Sylvan Lake – Per George, Brash to reevaluate tree planting
  - Environmental- John Weber is Liaison with this committee
  - Main Street- Al Gubitosi is liaison with this Task Force
- Monmouth County
  - George Noble – George spoke with and established a relationship
- JCP&L
  - Frank Luna- George spoke with and established a relationship He lives in Bradley. [https://www.firstenergycorp.com/service\\_requests/report-tree-problem.html](https://www.firstenergycorp.com/service_requests/report-tree-problem.html)

- Verizon
  - Mark Bocchieri – George spoke with and asked to contact STC for future removals
    - LaReine Pole- Researching the trees that were removed. We asked Verizon to remove the stumps and replant 1 tree
- Tree Removal Companies - Shana set up google doc of all licensed and non-licensed tree contractors and sent an email of Ordinance requirements to all the licensed contractors to advise them as they proceed with tree removals in the borough.
- Local Contractors – Quarterly Newsletters going forward. Shana and Ravi to work on it.

10. Continuing Education

- Tree City USA Virtual Conference
- NJ Forest Service Urban and Comm. Core Training
  - March 11-31<sup>st</sup>
  - 4 volunteers, 2 employees

11. Commission Comments

12. Liaison Comments

13. Public Comments

14. Close - Shana made a motion to close; Larry seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:22 PM.