

Minutes of the BBSTC October 20th, 2021

1. Call to Order 7:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

- George Heflich - Present
- Anne Gubitosi - Present
- Larry Bagwell - Present
- Kim Baker - Present
- Nick Kosarych - Present
- Jane DeNoble - Absent
- Liaisons - John Weber and Larry Fox - Present

3. Ratification of Minutes

- October 7th, 2021- L.Bagwell made a motion to accept as written. K. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Applications

- New
 - 21-034 408 Bradley Blvd - The owners of this property want to remove a large tree in the front of their house that is dying and replace it with a live tree . They write that the tree has been evaluated by a tree company over the years who has confirmed it to be dying.
N. Kosarych said this seems to be a reasonable request as it is dying.
G. Heflich viewed the property and agreed that the tree appears to be dying. He stated that if the tree was healthy, three trees would be required as replacements, but if it is dying, no replacements would be mandatory. He suggested that the offer to replant 1 tree is fair if the tree is indeed dying.

There was a unanimous vote to approve the application as requested.

- 1009 Madison Ave - The owners want to plant two trees on their planting strip. There was a unanimous vote to approve this application.

- 603.5 Monmouth Ave - The owners of this property wish to remove two trees from the planting strip and 8 trees in the back on their private property.
N. Kosarych asked that this application be split into two parts: the planting strip trees and the backyard private property trees.
The applicant, Luke Rudowsky, was present and stated that one of the planting strip trees seems to be dead and the other one is impeding and lifting up the sidewalk. There are dead branches on both. The trees have damaged the sidewalk and caused it to become a trip hazard. There is decay in the trunks and they were overpruned by the utility company.
L. Fox is a neighbor and weighed in on the neglected property and the state of the trees.
G.Heflich showed photos taken earlier that day. He explained that the trees have greatly overgrown the narrow planting strip onto both the sidewalk and curb. He is concerned that repairing either of those issues will result in removing foundational root structure and create a dangerous

situation.

The application section requesting the removal of the planting strip trees without replacements was approved 4-1.

A.Gubitosi, N.Kosarych, K.Baker and G.Heflich voted to remove the planting strip trees with no replacements required. L.Bagwell was the dissenting vote, stating that he would like the planting strip trees to be replaced with 6 replacement trees.

The applicant is planning an addition and would like to also remove 8 trees from the backyard. He stated that he will plant more trees once he has completed construction.

J. Weber stated that we have an ordinance for a reason and that trees that are cut down need to be replaced.

The applicant stated that several trees are dead and should not have to be replaced.

The commission will ask Mr. Brash to evaluate the backyard and then we will determine how many replacement trees will be needed to satisfy the ordinance.

There was a unanimous vote in favor of having Mr. Brash evaluate the property before rendering a decision on the private trees.

- 504 Monmouth Ave - This is a request to remove a healthy tree in order to remove an oil tank. The request does not state that the applicant will replant trees or pay the assessment.

The Commission unanimously voted that

this tree will need to be replaced with two trees, as per the ordinance.

- Violations: 308 McCabe; 901 Hammond; 215 Second; 500 Burlington-- There was a discussion on what to do about these violations in which trees have been taken down without permission.

There was agreement that there needs to be a buffer between the Commission and the residents. Code should be enforcing these violations. They should send the letter to the resident instead of the Commission.

L.Fox said he will talk to the BA about this situation and report back to the Commission.

5. Tree Removal Services - J. Weber to follow up.

6. HONOR ME/WISHING TREE

- October 9th Planting - 16 trees were planted. Half of them were Honor Me trees.
- 507 Evergreen - An HONOR ME tree will be planted for Mrs. Unger this fall by the DPW.
- Spring 2022
 - We will advertise after Xmas for Honor Me trees.
We will now plant in the planting strip in front of an applicant's home if it is large enough to accommodate the tree.
We will discuss with Mr. Brash if planting on Arbor Day is ok or too late in the season.

7. Tree of the Month:

- November - K. Baker is working on a tree for November.

8. Second Ave. Park Addition - 11 trees will be planted in this new strip. Irrigation will be installed soon and Mr. Brash gave a planting schematic for the new trees. The Commission will be buying the trees for \$1,800 including delivery. 3 of the trees are HONOR ME trees.

9. Programs Oversight - N. Kosarych and L. Bagwell met with Shana Greenblatt on how to manage these programs.

February 22 is the date for the annual progress report for the Community Forestry Management Program and for Arbor Day for Tree City USA.

G. Heflich thanked them for taking over the oversight of these programs.

10. Grant for Tree Inventory - G. Heflich stated that Mr. Brash said that if the inventory is done before the grant is awarded, the grant will not be awarded. G. Heflich will reach out to Mr. Brash regarding this.

11. Winter Meetings

- Meeting Length - Will be no longer than 1 hour, is possible
- Once a month - All members agreed that moving to once a month for the winter makes sense.

G. Heflich will inform the Commission when the next meeting will take place.

12. Commission Comments

- K. Baker informed the Commission of a website for resources called ArborDay.org.

- L. Bagwell said the Shade Tree Federation of NJ conference is this weekend.
- G. Heflich said that he will follow up with Amy Hall regarding the web page.

13. Liaison Comments - None

14. Public Comments - None

15. Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.