

Minutes of the BBSTC September 15th, 2021

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

- Chairman - George Heflich
- Secretary - Anne Gubitosi
- Larry Bagwell
- Kim Baker
- Nick Kosarych
- Council Liaison – John Weber
- Absent: None
- Mayor Larry Fox
- Business Administrator Kim Humphrey
- Jane DeNoble- member in waiting

3. Ratification of Minutes of September 8th, 2021

- Motion to approve (A. Gubitosi); Second (K. Baker); Unanimously Approved

4. Applications

- New
 - 21-031 509 ½ Newark:

Applicant is requesting removal of a tree that has damaged her sidewalk. She was issued a sidewalk violation notice from the borough. This is the second application for this tree. The first was denied in April 2021.

The homeowner expressed her concerns to the Bradley Beach BA (Kim Humphrey) who described her embarrassment over the state of her sidewalk and said she would appeal to the council if denied by the STC. Ms. Humphrey encouraged the STC members to consider a resident's quality of life and limited income when deciding upon this application. She also suggested that this could be an opportunity for a demonstration regarding how masons should work to avoid damaging tree roots.

Municipal representatives, including Mayor Larry Fox, BA Kim Humphrey and DPW supervisor Biaggio Cofone all testified that they believed that this was a unique situation

due to the large tree not fitting well in the 2-foot-wide planting strip.

Commission liaison John Weber expressed concerns about municipal representatives second guessing the decision of the STC.

Chairman Heflich stated that a resident's dislike for a healthy planting strip tree, separate from safety issues, is not cause for removal and reported that Mr. Cannon, the borough's lawyer, confirmed the commission's jurisdiction over planting strip trees.

Chairman Heflich stated that Mr. Brash, the tree expert, reported that this is a healthy red oak tree which will continue to grow, and the root structure could re-lift the sidewalk years in the future.

He suggested that if this tree is going to be removed, a scenario where a tree is to be saved, would be the better case for a DPW learning situation with Mr. Brash.

Chairman Heflich recommended three considerations:

- 1) If the tree is allowed to be removed, two trees must be planted, of which one must be in this planting strip.
- 2) The existing tree should be removed as soon as possible:
- 3) The walkway between the sidewalk and curb will be replaced with grass to improve the planting strip.

The resident qualifies for a Wishing Tree, and we will attempt to include this property in the October 9th planting. Chairman Heflich motion to approve the application was unanimously agreed upon by all the members.

- Existing
 - 308 McCabe – Chairperson Heflich said that there has been no response to the certified notice.
 - 405 5th Ave. - Existing tree has two pieces of wood nailed to it for support. It was suggested that DPW remove the pieces
 - 21-002 218 Park Place- The homeowner, via email, expressed concern about the decision to plant 10 replacement trees on their small property. They have already planted three trees. They had asked to plant

shrubs, but G. Heflich replied that trees are the only acceptable replacement.

Councilman Weber said that we can fit 10 trees and that we should not make exceptions.

Mayor Fox said that the property was already crowded.

A. Gubitosi said that the addition of 4 more trees seems sufficient.

N. Kosarych wondered if the extra required trees could be donated elsewhere.

The STC voted unanimously to amend the required total from 10 to 7 if the applicant agrees to plant at least 2 in the planting strip.

- Follow-up spreadsheet – L. Bagwell working on this
- Fillable PDF - Follow up with Amy Hall required
- Tree Removal Services
 - Councilman Weber volunteered to contact top 7 companies

5. Ethics Class

- September 20th – Reminder to members to attend

6. Account updates from the CFO

- Budget- \$24,692.66 remaining
- Trust Fund- \$7,006.01 + \$420- This fund is for tree purchase only
- ZOOM account- We can now use the borough's ZOOM account

7. Honor Me/Wishing Tree

October 9th – Planting 9:00. Meet at the firehouse for a demonstration on how to plant.

John Weber will look into provisions of donuts and coffee.

The dead tree near the firehouse for Mrs. Napoli will be replaced.

G. Heflich will call for utility mark outs.

He will reach out to the papers.

- Planning Calendar
 - Finalize Nursery- Jane

- Tree Count-16, almost all planting strip trees
- Delivery- Friday, Oct. 8th- DPW yard. DPW will dig the holes the night before
 - Hole dimensions- DPW needs the dimensions
 - Finalize Plaques- Jane
 - Finalize Accessories- Stakes, ties, water bags, mulch provided by DPW-George
 - Volunteers- John Weber. Volunteer forms must be filled out with the disclaimer. John Weber will make sure that all volunteers fill out waivers.
- Newspapers/Social Media
- A new honor me request for the second ave. park addition is forthcoming. Mayor Fox states that 4-6 trees will be planted there.

8. Tree of the Month

- October will be the start date for the tree of the month
- K. Baker said that the first recipient will be Debra Brunnell and that a posting and a write up will be posted on social media. Once Sandy Rice, the CFO, approves the purchase of a plaque, it will be placed in front of the recipient's tree for a month.

9. Programs Oversight

- Tree City USA - We need a representative to be in charge of our membership. Looking for volunteers
- Community Forestry Management Plan - L. Bagwell will be in charge of membership
- New Jersey Shade Tree Federation - L. Bagwell will be in charge of membership

10. Commission comments

- Ivy – Ivy was removed from across International Bagel by DPW
- Tree of Heaven – Invasive species. The STC needs to develop a policy to encourage removal

11. Liaison comments

- J. Weber said that residents cannot always get what they want

12. Public comments - None

13. Close at 8:45 pm

-Submitted by Anne Gubitosi, Secretary