

BBSTC Minutes - August 3rd, 2022

Call to Order 7:04 pm

Roll Call

- George Heflich - Present
- Anne Gubitosi - Absent
- Larry Bagwell - Present (Joined 7:20 pm)
- Nick Kosarych - Present
- Tom Gavin - Present
- Jane DeNoble - Present
- Laurie Bagley - Present
- John Weber - Absent
- Al Gubitosi - Substitute Secretary
- Bill Brash - Present (Joined 7:29 pm)

Ratification of Minutes of 7-20-22 – N. Kosarych motioned to accept, T. Gavin second. All approved

Applications:

- New- 22-015 604 Bradley Blvd.
 - Asking for 14 trees on private property to be removed. Half are dying white pines. 8 trees are dead or dying soon
 - T. Gavin asked if it is possible to move the 6 healthy trees. Challenge is that the root systems would prevent movement of trees. J. DeNoble suggests it's better to start over with new trees
 - Homeowner volunteers to plant 6 to 8 trees
 - N. Kosarych motions to accept application with requirement to plant 6 new trees. J. Denoble second. All approved

Heat wave –

- Laurie started group email for Wishing Trees
- Lost three dogwoods in Second Ave Park. J. DeNoble suggests replacing these dogwoods with three Service Berry trees (heartier)
- 1 new London Plane Tree dropped its leaves but is recovering nicely
- Another Heat wave is expected this week

Events

- Fall 2021/Spring 2022
 - Watering Bags Email Reminders –
 - Laurie has been sending once a week.
 - Laurie will send two times during heat waves (Mondays and Thursdays)
- Fall 2022
 - WT/HM Applications in Tax Bill
 - Should go out this week in Tax Bills
 - 8 Wishing Tree applications already?
 - Received 3 Honor Me trees this week
 - Fall Planting will be Saturday, October 8th

Tree of the Month – August (708 Fletcher Lake)

Sylvan Lake

- N. Kosarych has met with SLC committee members, and they have expressed their desire to work with us when it is time to plant new trees on the lakefront. The current Ash Trees are dying.
- A. Gubitosi shared that Sylvan Lake Commission is happy to work with the Shade Tree Com.
- J. DeNoble said that many “Honor Me’ requests would like to be planted at Sylvan Lake. There should be an opportunity to get more requests if it is for lakefront planting.

- G. Heflich - B. Brash does not recommend willows - will lose branches in wind.
- G. Heflich reinforced that the committee should keep the DPW in the loop.
- The commission voted unanimously to help the Sylvan Lake Committee.
- L. Bagwell asked if SLC tree costs would come from STC, SLC or BB Borough Budget? G. Heflich to find out.

Presentation by Mr. Bill Brash- Results of the borough's Tree Inventory

- Inventory is complete - important aspects summarized.
- Average diameter is 12 to 14 inches.
- Tree Coverage is 16.7% - low because of 50%+ vacancies plus the areas where you can't plant trees (Streets across from lakes, Planting Strips less than 24", Ocean Avenue and first block in from the ocean).
 - 40% canopy is ideal - but GOAL should be to double the current to 33% coverage.
 - NJ State will fund and recently the State has a lot of funding available.
 - Goal should be to try to plant trees in HALF of the vacancy areas (904 total).
- Brash works with iTreeEco - Carbon sequestrations and pollutant removal. Info is difficult to extract from Eco program. ('Bear Grass tree' is really a vacancy input for the Eco program)
- Standout items:
 - Don't have a lot of "Red Flags" (15 out of 1,000 trees - remarkable). Red Flags should be removed as soon as possible.
 - Sidewalk deflections are few - Mr. Brash saw a lot of sidewalk work completed.
- 76 Ash trees included in inventory. 35 are in Parks, the

rest are in the 400 - 600 blocks and all planted around the same time.

- 904 Vacancies – Most are in the upper blocks (400-600) and on both East/West and North/South streets.
- A Game Plan should be laid out for Bradley Beach to follow

Commission Comments - Questions asked of Bill Brash.

- J. DeNoble asks how to combat Lantern Flies? Brash said they can be sprayed with OTC pesticide when they gather. Also, scrape off eggs. Google “NJ Dept of Agriculture Lantern Flies” to see treatment alternatives.
- T. Gavin asked about small planting strips alternatives: North end of town has small planting strips - e.g., Newark Ave. makes it difficult to build canopy with small trees. Many towns enlist residents to plant on private property instead of planting strips as recommendations.
- Now that BB STC has met qualifications - the STC can apply to NJ State for funding. E.g., Start out with 270 vacancies with goal to plant 200 by a contractor (“bare root” - 1 inch diameter and 6’-7’ tall) in a week. Also, State will fund watering with Gator Bags and follow-up work to get trees to survive. N. Kosarych asked for funding - Google “NJ DEP Community Forestry” - search grant applications.
- J. DeNoble asked about Elms. Some Elms are blight resistant - but not all.
- London Plain is an important species for Bradley Beach - large percentage of our canopy. Should diversify, however. Come up with similar tree as London Plain but diversify species. E.g., Swamp white Oak, Willow Oak (Red Oak family might have leaf scorch), Native Elms (Cultivar) is strong, Non-native Elm (Harbifor?) - hearty and nice

canopy.

L. Bagwell likes asking property owners with small planting strips - and likes "advertising" to homeowners

- N. Kosarych - Can we get higher Canopy for Sylvan Lake trees so as not to block views of the lake.
Mr. Brash recommends European Horn Beam - looks like a corn dog - narrow crown; Also, Narrow Crown Maples (Google "Narrow Crown Maples" to find species).
- J. DeNoble: What about "Crepe Myrtles"? Brash: Climate and close to Ocean - should do OK. I wouldn't overwhelm with planting. Pretty - but not best for wildlife.
- Japanese "Zelkova"? Comes from Asia. Looks like "upside down dust mop". Few if any habitat values and will create sidewalk problems.
- T. Gavin - Any Evergreens to suggest for year-round planting? Don't want to block views all year round.
Reserve for parks. Not along streets or lakes - they create shade - and in winter causes ice on sidewalks.
- T. Gavin - How to address "Red Tag" trees? Bradley Municipality should act soon if Bradley trees. G. Heflich to set up meeting with mayor, BA and DPW
- G. Heflich reminded the commission not to share any information with residents at this point so that the mayor and council can decide on a course of action.
- G. Heflich: Thoughts about sprinklers and artificial turf in planting strips?
 - Artificial Turf- never sees artificial turf in any other towns. "Not what most of us would want".
Grandfathering is a good way to do it.
Plastic is not good for the environment - worms, roots, etc.
Most are impervious so water runs off into street.

They retain heat and limit water.

Al Gubitosi shared a story where a BB snowplow damaged someone's artificial turf and the borough must replace it.

L. Bagwell suggests that we UPDATE the inventory of artificial turf locations - so only grandfathered Astro turf is allowed.

- Commission members ALL against Astro turf.
- Sprinkler heads in planting strip - LOW PRESSURE heads MIGHT be beneficial - but would want Borough to get waiver signed by homeowner to avoid liability for damage. Commission members split 3 "yes" vs 3 "no".
- T. Gavin - How would a "pebble cover" work around tree - Arizona using a new approach? Brash - provides a weed block but degrades over time but not as environmentally sound as mulch. Rainwater can cause leeching from stones too - contributes to chemistry of roots. Arizona gets 5" to 10" of rain per year. We get 44" of rain - so more of an issue in New Jersey.
- G. Heflich - Bill Brash invoice will be submitted at next town meeting.
- Commission members thanked Bill Brash for the wonderful, thorough report he delivered.

11. Liaison Comments – Absent

12. Public Comments – None

13. Close 8:37 pm.