

Minutes of the BBSTC – Wednesday – January 3, 2024

- Call to Order 7:01 pm
- Roll Call
 - Larry Bagwell - Present
 - Anne Gubitosi - Present
 - Nick Kosarych - Present
 - Noelle Weinberg - Present
 - Tom Gavin - Absent
 - Carolyn Davidson - Present
 - Susan Pearsall - Present
 - Jane DeNoble, Liaison - Present
 - John Weber, Liaison - Present
- Minutes For Last Meeting: A. Gubitosi motion to approve. N. Kosarych Second. All approved.
- Applications:
 - 24-001 – 610 5th Ave – remove 5 trees (PRIVATE) (w/8 replacements). N. Kosarych liked the application. Noted a lot of overgrowth. Wrong species. Would prefer new trees that are from approved list. L. Bagwell noted that application states they will use “Nellie Stevens Hollies” holly trees - must confirm they are “Tree” hollies and not “Bush” hollies. C. Davidson notes these are “shrub-like” hollies. J. Weber notes from Google search that they can grow 15 to 30 feet high. L. Bagwell agrees to discuss with property owners if they will plan more mature trees to replace the large trees they will remove. N. Kosarych motion to approve with condition to plant approved trees. A. Gubitosi seconds. All approved. L. Bagwell will contact the homeowner to request alternate species of trees to be used.
- New plantings activity:
 - Wishing Tree Applications to Date: One application to date.
 - Honor Me Applications to Date: None to date.
 - L. Bagwell suggested using sewer bill mailings to advertise “Wishing” and “Honor Me” trees. A. Gubitosi stated willingness to help. L. Bagwell will confirm the timing of mailing with B.A. Meredith DeMarco.
 - L. Bagwell also suggested that Commission members could “knock on a few doors” to test interest where there might be spots for trees.
- Community Outreach/Media
 - Oldest Tree in Bradley Beach: N. Kosarych notes that the STC has posted 18 plaques already - only one refusal. Many compliments received. L. Bagwell has another 20 plaques received last week (roughly \$230 plus shipping per J. Weber). L. Bagwell motion to spend roughly \$230 plus shipping on plaques. A. Gubitosi seconds. Unanimous approval.

- Tree of the Month: Jane DeNoble found a Blue Spruce from a picture on Facebook and has already written an article. History is that it was transplanted from the Colorado Grand Canyon.
- Media – Coast Star and Coastar
- Calendar - Next Meeting – 2/7/2024
- Budget Updates: Shade Tree Account is \$15,057.74. L. Bagwell suggests that the STC can purchase trees needed around town. Suggests targeting around 30 new trees for applications around the Borough.
- Commission Comments:
 - L. Bagwell asks Commission members for any Ordinance changes they would like to see. E.g. Replace gravel or concrete when new C.O. issued. What is allowed in the planting strip? E.g.: 20 days or 23 days between meetings?
 - L. Bagwell reminds that the STC needs to summarize 2023 accomplishments. N. Kosarych and L. Bagwell will summarize new trees planted (Honor Me and Wishing Trees) and trees removed.
 - Tree City application is coming up (deadline is Feb 15, 2024). Urban inventory is due January 15, 2024. N. Kosarych needs a summary of hours provided in support by DPW and count of volunteer hours. Also must count STC Commission meeting hours. STC will apply again.
 - N. Kosarych reminds that members need to get continuing education units. L. Bagwell will confirm budget dollars available for training. J. Weber will make calls to confirm if he receives credits for attending the League of Municipalities seminar on trees (sponsored by Sustainable NJ). L. Bagwell encourages members to participate in core training by NJ Shade Tree Commission (or Shade Tree Federation) - all online. Noelle W. asked for specific title or link for this training.
 - L. Bagwell suggests May 4th might be best for Spring planting - Immediately follows Passover Holiday. Arbor Day is April 26th. Bagwell will coordinate with B. Cafone for DPW support.
 - L. Bagwell notes that the BBBCA requested “other events” so that the BBBCA can include other organization’s events in their newsletters. Add Green Fair (4/21) and Spring Planting (5/4) dates?
- Liaison Comments
 - J. DeNoble - Green Fair is Sunday, April 21st, starts at 11:00 am to 4:00 pm and table is free. DeNoble says last year was a big success.
 - J. DeNoble - Can the STC develop a map of the “Oldest trees” in Bradley Beach? The STC keeps addresses of these trees on STC portal. C. Davidson will explore “iNaturalist” server to see if she can create a “map”.
 - J. DeNoble - Maybe STC should consider running a Newspaper add to encourage more tree applications.
 - J. DeNoble asks if STC should consider Ordinance change that would allow replacement of members who are chronically absent. L. Bagwell agrees that this should be reviewed.

- J. Weber noted that STC members have 5 year terms BUT initial appointments should be staggered. T. Gavin (1 Year); C. Davidson (2 Years); A. Gubitosi (3 years); Larry (4 years); Nick (5 Years); Susan (Alternate); N. Weinberg (Alternate)
- J. Weber - asks L. Bagwell to confirm that all members have access to Google Docs site for the STC.
- J. DeNoble states how proud she is of this STC team and says “Thank you” for all the hard work and that we are making a difference for the future. L. Bagwell agrees and states that he believes that the STC has planted over 130 trees in just the last few years.
- Public Comments: None
- Close 8:05 pm.