

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE HIGHTSTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Date and Time: April 27, 2021 at 7pm

Meeting Location: Held virtually through Zoom

Attendees: Todd Frantz (Chair)
David Zaiser (Shade Tree Official)
Julie Bond (Secretary)
Cristina Fowler (Council Liaison)
Sheila Hittesdorf
Shani Peretz (Peddie School Liaison)
John Laudenburger (Planning Board
Liaison) Gary Grubb

Absent: Tom Musa (Vice Chair)

Open Public Meeting Act Statement: In Compliance with Chapter 213 of the Public Laws of 1975, notice of this meeting was given by way of the Annual Notice published in the Trenton Times and Princeton Packet by the Borough Clerk and posted on the Borough Website.

Approval of Agenda: Sheila Hittesdorf motioned to approve the agenda which was seconded by Gary Grubb.

Shade Tree Matters:

Shade Tree Official's Report added as an attachment to the regular meeting minutes.

1. 4/27 Roberts Engineering asked to supply tree species for the Springcrest Drive, Taylor Ave, Spruce Court, Glen Drive, and Schuyler Ave. project.
2. 309 Park Ave oak tree complaint, discussion how to let the homeowner know that the tree is healthy and can't be taken down. Try to educate about oak tree benefits.
3. Trying to reach 25% shade tree canopy in the borough.

Parks and Recreation: Gary has been watering and taking care of the new sunset maple in Association Park. Gary and Kenny have been using fertilizer to feed trees in Memorial Park. Noticed that the Purple Martins have returned to the lake.

Planning Board: No updates

Grants and Funding Update: Shade Tree Official's report NJDEP forestry grant project (see attachment). The 2021 Sustainable Jersey Grants Cycle funded by the PSEG Foundation is tabled for now. Todd spoke with Ann Marie Miller of CAC Arts to perhaps develop a collaboration.

New Business:

1. Resolution 2021-065 proclaiming Hightstown Volunteer Week from April 18-24. Volunteers were recognized, honored and appreciated!
2. 2021 Budget was submitted for \$13,970.00, no word from the Borough on approval
 - a. Council meeting for first time next week to discuss
 - i. Todd suggested Old Heights Brewery donation special beer for special initiative.
3. Arbor Day Celebration and Stream Cleanup
 - a. Event went very well. 43 volunteers for the stream cleanup and 337 lbs of trash cleaned up.
 - b. Approximately 25 people brought paper for shredding/secure recycling. Estimated at close to 1,000 lbs of paper recycled.
 - c. A Sunset Maple was planted in the Arboretum in Association Park to celebrate Arbor Day.
 - d. Appreciation for Tom Musa for coordination!
4. Yearly Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (attached) – Todd to return to the Borough
5. Complete Streets Committee – Mobility Plan Implementation (attached)
6. Sustainable Jersey recertification
 - a. Potential to extend until December 2022.
 - i. Todd will attend webinar to gain more information on recertifying to extend. Will send spreadsheet of actionable items to gain points toward recertification.
 - b. Application is due on June 6, 2021 if applying this year.
 - c. Meeting with Clare Lumkong on March 24. Discussed opportunities to partner with Rise on Sustainable Jersey application such as reusing goods, addressing food shortage and youth education on sustainability.

Plan Review:

1. 324 Park Ave pool installation – recommended rain garden, swales with native plantings and rain barrels to compensate for impervious ground.

2. 102 Gilman Pl. patio installation – recommended rain garden, swales with native plantings and rain barrels to compensate for impervious ground.
3. 216 Maxwell Ave Pool and Patio – recommended rain garden, swales with native plantings and rain barrels to compensate for impervious ground.
4. Water Treatment Plant Flood Mitigation, Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit Hardship Exception – Letter from Roberts Engineering dated March 19, 2021

Liaison updates:

1. The Watershed Institute – No updates
2. Meadow Lakes – No updates
3. Peddie School - Canceled earth week last week but clean-up rain date scheduled for 4/28 and expects 50 students to be involved.
4. Hightstown High School – No updates

Correspondence, Conferences and Workshops: None

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday May 25, 2021 at 7pm.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned.

Borough of Hightstown

Environmental Commission

Shade Tree Official's Report

To: Environmental Commission
From: David Zaiser, Shade Tree Official
Date: 27 April 2021 Meeting
Re: Shade Tree Official's (STO) Report – New items in **boldface**

1.0 Tree Work

- 1.1 **Resident request to remove a 20-inch Sawtooth Oak at 309 Park Avenue because it is “messy.” Tree is in good condition. Discuss approach with EC.**

2.0 NJ DEP (Forestry) Grant Project

- 2.1 Scope of Work: Plant **43** street trees along North and South Main Streets. Targeting **Mid-May 2021** for planting.
- 2.2 North and South Main Streets re-surveyed for existing tree conditions in July 2020.
- 2.3 Grant Executed by Borough/ State on 11/2/2020.
- 2.4 Letter of Support received from Mercer County DOT dated 10/15/2020.
- 2.5 Approval of Tree Species Schedule by Mercer County DOT on 12/3/2020.
- 2.5 Planting Plan submitted to NJ DEP for review on 12/4/2020. State responded on 12/14 that their review is ongoing.
- 2.6 State has returned comments and STO has responded with additional questions (1/26/21).
- 2.7 State has addressed STO questions (2/10/2021). Final submission w/ minor edits due to State. Final Submission approved by the State. (2/27/21)
- 2.8 Bid Documents reviewed by Borough Clerk (3/15/21). Project is out to Bid. Targeting planting between April 15th and May 31st.
- 2.9 **Two proposals received. Low price proposal from Brightview. Proposal reviewed with Brightview to confirm scope. Plant letters hand delivered to residents at potential tree locations. P.O. being processed by Borough.**

3.0 Lincoln/ Hagemount/ Rocky Brook Streetscape Project

- 3.1 STO worked with Roberts Engineering to adjust documented tree locations on site on 11/13/2020.
- 3.2 Yan Troizier reviewed installation and emailed concerns to STO on 11/23/2020.
- 3.3 STO issued memo to Roberts Engineering formalizing installation concerns on 11/25/2020 (attached). There has been no response.
- 3.4 **Still no response (1/26/21) (2/23/21) (3/23/21) (4/27/21)**

4.0 Springcrest Street Sidewalks

- 4.1 Roberts Engineering asked for tree species and location recommendations. Still to be recommended.

5.0 Arbor Day Celebration

- 5.1 Council resolution passed (3/15/21).
- 5.2 Tree donated by Growing Concern.
- 5.3 Association Park planting, celebration set for noon on 17 April.
- 5.4 Arbor Day event held in Association Park. A Sunset Maple tree was planted. Article in Wind-Hights Herald (attached).**

End of Report