

## Shade Tree Committee Meeting Minutes 10/08/24

### Members present:

Kate Fullerton (Chair)

Moe Fabian (DPW)

Gabe Rosko

Cecile Vidican

Deborah Gnatt (Council Representative)

Notice was read by Kate Fullerton.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

### Old business:

Council update (Deborah Gnatt):

- There will be a Town hall meeting on 10/23/24 about ideas for the landfill.

Gabe Rosko: about the Arboretum meeting:

Denise Hanson (master gardener) and Michael Van Clef (Stewardship Director, FOHVOS) gave recommendations for the enclosure: three trees need to be removed. One Cherry tree is hanging at an angle over the fence, another is a Silver Maple. The current drought is not helping things.

There was discussion regarding the signage contractor for the Eileen Heinzl memorial sign. The Eagle Scouts will be helping out with signage and bench. Meandering paths through the enclosure were also discussed. Also about possible QR codes for info regarding different planting areas. The Borough received a NJEC grant of \$1500.

Moe Fabian:

In the fall, we are looking at the budget left for planting: we have \$888 left. There was one tree request at 413 Bird for a Paper Bark Maple. We found it and planted it where the oak tree had been taken out in the past. The resident asked for another to be planted. Moe found another, and made sure it's good quality.

We lost a big Beech at Kunkel in a storm. It has been cut down. A Hickory tree was sourced, and will be coming in. We are replacing an oak at Sked Park with a Bicolor Oak.

This all comes within \$1.13 of the budget.

Moe took three bids from local contractors. One tree was originally thought to need pruning at 25 Eglantine Street, but it has bacterial leaf scorch (BLS), and needs to come down. We then need to grind the stump.

Also at 3 Laning Street, there are concerns about a Silver Maple, we tried to prune out the dead branches, but it has to be taken down and the stump ground.

We also need to look at trees from the list of 80 Oak trees declining from bacterial leaf scorch. Here are some priorities:

- 117 Voorhees Street, an Oak tree on the curb is suffering from BLS. Moe spoke to the owner of the house, John, as a courtesy. He understood. It has to be removed and the stump ground.
- 121 Laning Avenue: there is a large Oak, with 3 in diameter dead branches in the canopy, leaning over the house. Pruning for this tree was added to the bid.

The contract was won by Tom's Tree Service by far (his bid came in at half of what the others were asking).

For some trees, Moe doesn't have a grinder: at 444 Sked Street, 21 East Welling Avenue, and 11 Baldwin Street. These 3 stump grindings will be added to the list for the contractor.

This eats up the Planning budget, and goes through some of the Pruning and Take Down budget.

Rockwell Green: this was repaved earlier in the year. Some trees were replaced. White Pines were initially planted in the 80s, some needed to be taken down or cleaned up. There is an easement there of 100 feet wide, and more houses were built over the years which fall into that easement. Theoretically we may be able to plant 2 deciduous trees there, maybe some more White Pines. We have a budget for possibly 6 more trees there. But it is solid shale on either side, so planting will not be easy.

At Broemel place / Bixby's Way: the Gazebo was installed on 10/08/24. In the last 10 years, 5 trees were planted there, and a walkway installed. This is Borough property. 5 memorial trees were dedicated in the past to members of the 1st Aid Squad. Another 5 trees are ready to be planted for memorials and already paid for.

### New business:

### Budget review:

- Licenses / Education: previous amount looks appropriate, maybe add a little more.
- Equipment: the recently acquired Husqvarna equipment is durable, so there's less need to replace or repair it. The battery operated pruners, chainsaws, etc, with 3 batteries you can rotate, the equipment is very well made, so there is not so much need for more in the budget. There is less wear and tear with less use of the chipper. The expenditure is not growing.
- Tree pruning / removal budget: can we increase it to \$20,000? For all the Oaks with BLS.
- Purchasing of trees: we've held constant. We had 2018 and 2021 grants. But those are not available now because they're focusing on the forestry plan, and on grant money to have it sourced out. More grants may become available from Brian. Keep the budget at \$2500.
- Outreach: \$150 is more than enough.

### New forestry plan:

- Take Moe Fabian's name out since he's retiring soon. Add Rick Smith temporarily.
- As Borough contact, write in GP Caminiti.
- Put staff names in, not volunteer members of the Shade Tree Committee.
- A formal inventory of our trees was done some years ago. Some grants are available for help doing an inventory. The \$5,000 grant could be helpful to pay for the mapping. Check if the link is up for grant sign-ups?
- Potential new resource: the Borough has brought in a retired Licensed Tree Expert who did a presentation.

Our next Shade Tree Committee will be online on November 12, 2024. And the following one in person on 12/10/24.