

Borough of Atlantic Flighlands Shade Tree Commission



100 First Avenue • Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey 07716 Tel: (732) 291-1444 • Fax: (732) 291-9725

Atlantic Highlands Shade Tree Commission Meeting at Atlantic Highlands Borough Hall March 8, 2023 - 7:00 PM

1. The monthly meeting was called to order by Fred Callis at 7 p.m. in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law.

Present: Ashley Cruz, Fred Callis, Ed Kenney, Janet Grote, Angus Rennie, Bill Thorne, Mary Trank; Vito Colasurdo, Lori Hohenleitner (council liaisons).

Not Present: Ben Schmoll

- 2. Ken Grasso made a motion to accept as amended the February 2023 minutes. Ed Kenney, Angus Rennie, and Bill Thorne abstained. All others voted in favor.
- 3. Correspondence: None.
- 4. The treasurer's report was presented by Bill Thorne. Fred Callis made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Janet Grote seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Opening balance:

\$14,430.72 (February 9, 2023)

Expenses:

Deposits:

Closing balance: \$14, 430.72 (March 8, 2023)

- 5. Old Business:
- a. Tribute Tree Plaque Modernization progress update:

Fred Callis requested pictures and coordinates of tribute trees to accompany completed biographies. Ken Grasso is going to provide the pictures and coordinates.

- b. Arbor Day Poster Contest "Wild About Trees in Atlantic Highlands": Winners of the upcoming poster contest will receive gift cards. Ken Grasso made a motion to allocate an amount not to exceed \$500 to purchase gift cards. Fred Callis seconded the motion. Janet Grote will purchase the gift cards.
- c. Earth month: Shade Tree is sponsoring a speaker on April 22nd. Fred Callis is going to book Mary Charlotte Gitlin, who was recommended by Paul Cowie. The venue for the speaker is as yet undetermined. Shade Tree will request use of Atlantic Highlands Arts Council. Arts Council Board Member Angus Rennie said he expects use will be granted; he will address this at the upcoming Arts Council board meeting and report back to Ken Grasso.

Seedling distribution: Still to be determined is the location of the seedling distribution on April 22nd possibly in front of borough hall; possibly at Atlantic Highlands Arts Council if Mary Charlotte Gitlin speaks at that venue. Ashley Cruz said she is going to create a half-page handout to give to residents who receive a seedling - included will be information about the three species we are distributing; how to care for seedlings, etc. Ken Grasso said he would also like to prepare a mailing for residents who received trees in the Spring planting. Ms. Cruz said she would work with Mr. Grasso on the mailing.



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- d. Tree ordinances, permits revisions and/or additions: Councilwoman Hohenleitner said she and Councilman Colasurdo will be meeting with the borough engineer and will return to the Commission with information he provides about best practices of other towns and suggestions for Atlantic Highlands.
- e. Bill Thorne said an application has been submitted for renewal of recognition of Atlantic Highlands as an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA. Once accepted, Atlantic Highlands will be a Tree City USA for 42 years.
- 6. New Business:
- b. Should we plant an Arbor Day Tree? Yes. Ashley Cruz suggested planting a tree in the Many Mind Park. Ken Grasso made a motion to allocate up to \$750 toward purchase of an Arbor Day Tree. Fred Callis seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
- 7. Public comment: No public comment
- 8. Ed Kenney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ken Grasso seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.