

**November 10, 2015 7:00 P.M.**  
**Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Atlantic Highlands Borough Hall Conference Room**  
**100 First Avenue, Atlantic Highlands. NJ 07716**

**In Attendance:** Bill Thorne, Marilyn Scherfen, Lori Montana, Mary Wall.

**Meeting called to order** at 7:02 P.M. by Marilyn Scherfen. This meeting had been publicized in accordance with the Sunshine Law.

**Minutes** from the meeting on October 13, 2015 were accepted. Marilyn Scherfen made the motion. Bill Thorne seconded the motion. All in attendance voted to approve.

**Correspondence:** none

**Treasurer's Report:**

Opening balance: \$2,483.00

Closing balance: \$3,083.41

Treasurer's report was accepted. A motion was made by Lori Montana and seconded by Marilyn Scherfen. All in attendance voted to approve.

**Committee Reports:** Bill Thorne submitted the article about the Shade Tree commission to the Beacon. We have 82 "Likes" on Facebook.

Marilyn Scherfen suggested holding a special meeting to go over the tree inventory app. There are some bugs that have to be worked out. We have inventoried approximately 200 trees.

The Tribute Tree Planting honoring the Street Department in October was lovely, although only lightly attended. A reception followed, with decorations and refreshments generously provided by Fran Hogan.

Hennessey Blvd. tree planting: We added 16 new trees making the total 17 (including the John Scott tree).

**Old Business:** Town Council meeting: Marilyn Scherfen and some members of the Shade Tree Commission, went before the Atlantic Highlands town council and explained the Shade Tree Commission's plans for the future, what we've accomplished, and handed out STC magnets.

**Watering Trees:** No word from the Boy Scouts about helping. Marilyn purchased hoses, but will be returning one that was defective. Bob and Anne Milling, Bill and Shirley Thorne, Kate Wigginton, Lori Montana, and Marilyn Scherfen watered the new trees. It was requested that thank you notes be sent to Tara Shah and Mr. and Mrs. Milling for watering trees.

Marilyn Scherfen is looking for an alternate water source for watering. A spigot may be one at the bank or on Peter Sabat's property. Marilyn Scherfen will contact Mr. Sabat. Mary Wall will ask her nephew if a fire truck could water the trees; Marilyn will ask Jackie Hillman about the Leo's watering the trees.

**Donations:** STC received donations totaling \$2,000.00 for the Trees For Tomorrow fund.

The Shade Tree Commission will take Mary Thompson out to lunch to thank her for her service on Saturday, December 5 at 12:30. We will meet at the Memphis Pig Out. Lori Montana will send an e-mail asking for a head count then will make a reservation.

Arbor Day 2016: Some suggestions – A scavenger hunt for particular trees; use a site called geo-caching that gives clues using a GPS, ‘selfies’ with a tree; make it a contest and the SCT will pick the best. We can also have best group; pick ten trees and have a hunt; have families find a tree with the largest diameter. The winner will get to name the tree and the winner’s name will be put in the AH Herald.

Stakeholders’ Meeting Ideas: Possible invitees: mayor, council, borough attorney, street department, tree-watering volunteers, environmental commission, residents of Atlantic Highlands, Jen Marston, utility companies, planning board, code enforcement officer, emergency management, chamber of commerce, Ed Cetron. The date will be Thursday, February 4 at 10:00 A.M. Purpose: to inform stakeholders about our vision for the future, including planting more trees, educating the community on tree maintenance, the value of trees (they are good for property values and businesses), tree inventory, how involved it is to take care of trees. We hope to increase the budget to care for our trees. Ms. Wall will ask what equipment is needed to project the photographs. Marilyn and Bill will meet on Tuesday, January 7, 2016, to discuss the Stakeholders’ meeting and what we want to present, including which photos to use. Mary Wall will put together a PowerPoint presentation from the photos.

**Old Business:** Management Plan: Marilyn Scherfen has not heard from Carrie Sargeant.

Tree Maintenance: Marilyn Scherfen reported that 8 tree stumps still needed to be removed at \$75.00 per stump. It was voted to allocate the money for the removal and Marilyn arrange for such. This year 12 trees have been removed, 27 trees planted, 53 trees pruned.

**New Business:** Arbor Day. The poster contest theme will be ‘Trees for Tomorrow’. Arbor Day is April 29.

Suggestions for next tribute tree: honoring living mayors who don’t have a tree. Or: Past, present, and future mayors. And plant the tree in front of Borough Hall; Marilyn will ask Adam about that possibility.

Enforcement of fines was discussed; it was decided that since we do not have the authority to do so, enforcement would be doubtful.

Having a budget for spending our borough allocation was discussed. Mary Wall made the motion to have a line item budget in the following proportions: 50% maintenance, 40% planting 10% education (programs, community outreach). Bill seconded the motion. All in attendance agreed. It was also agreed to keep separate track of the ‘Trees for Tomorrow’ Fund.

Fireman’s Field was the suggestion for our next large-scale planting. A proposal was made that the planting be made on the other side of the creek by the borough garage.

Money left over will be allocated for a portable water tank, Priced around \$2,000.00. Mary Wall made the motion; Bill Thorne seconded the motion, all in attendance agreed.

January 12, 2016, will be the reorganization meeting.

Bill Thorne made the motion to adjourn; Mary Wall seconded the motion, all in attendance agreed.  
**Meeting adjourned** at 8:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Montana

