

Shade Tree Commission Meeting
February 9, 2016
Atlantic Highlands Borough Hall Conference Room
100 First Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716

In Attendance: Louise Donoghue, Marilyn Scherfen, Mary Wall, Lori Montana
Louise Donoghue called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance - January 13, 2016: \$1,283.41

Closing Balance – February 10, 2016: \$638.41

Treasurer's report was accepted. A motion was made by Marilyn Scherfen and seconded by Louise Donoghue

The Minutes: Page two, paragraph seven, 'in April' was added to the last sentence in that paragraph. The correction was made at the meeting and Marilyn Scherfen made the motion to accept the amended minutes. Louise Donoghue seconded it.

Copies of the roster for 2016 were handed out to the members in attendance. An electronic copy will be e-mailed to all the commission members.

Our drawer in the conference room is number: 451. Beth Merkel and Lori Montana have keys.

Correspondence:

Kate Wigginton gave a donation to our 'Trees for Tomorrow' fund in honor of Barbara Lawler, Michelle Clark's mother. An acknowledgement was sent to Michelle Clark.

The Shade Tree Commission submitted paperwork for payment of the grant money because of the completion of its five-year management plan.

Old Business:

Stakeholders Meeting:

Our first annual Stakeholders meeting was a success. Approximately fifteen people attended. It was decided to offer refreshments at future Stakeholders meetings. We also discussed the possibility of holding it at night.

Watering Trees:

Peter Sabat owns property on the corner of West Highland and Hennessey Blvd. where seven of the maples were planted last fall; Mr. Sabat gave us permission to use his water to water the trees. Jackie Hillman said the Leos would help us water trees.

Other Old Business:

Marilyn Scherfen asked the New Jersey State Forestry Services representative if we could get CEUs if we bring in a speaker. The answer is only if we have an accredited speaker. Naturalist, Joe Reynolds was suggested as a speaker.

We have 94 likes on our facebook page.

New Business:

Arbor Day:

Mayor Randi Le Grice will read the Arbor Day proclamation at the council meeting on April 13th. Dwayne Harris, who will prepare it, will be given the information for the proclamation by April 1.

The Tribute Tree planting for this spring will be at Atlantic Highlands Elementary School, and will be planted in honor of the students of AHES; a plaque placed nearby, will indicate that honor. Louise Donoghue and Marilyn Scherfen had a meeting with the co-chairs of the PTO, which is willing to partner in the cost of the planting. During the discussion, it was decided that the best choice for that space – on the playground, along the edge of the play equipment – was a larger shade tree, with Red Maple being the favorite. The price of a 3”- caliper tree from Casola Farms is \$210.

Louise Donoghue will order tubelings to be given out for Arbor Day. There was a discussion about making tubelings available to some (or all) of the AHES students as part of the Arbor Day planting celebration. Mrs. Donoghue will discuss how many tubelings to order with the school’s principal. Mrs. Donoghue will also speak to the principal about having refreshments during the Arbor Day celebration.

‘Trees for Tomorrow’ is the theme for the poster contest this year. The deadline for entries is April 8. Marilyn Scherfen will purchase the prizes. The winners will be chosen at our April 12 meeting, and the winning entries will be put on display in town, at a place still to be determined.

There will be an Arbor Day program at the library. Louise Donoghue will present it, during which she will pass out tubelings to those in attendance.

The commission members discussed bringing awareness to Arbor Day through a contest in which all members of a family could participate. Having a ‘Favorite Tree’ photo contest was suggested and approved; the participant is to take “selfie” in front of his or her favorite AH tree. Pictures can be submitted by email, messaged on the commission’s Facebook page, or dropped off at Borough Hall. All entrees must have a name and contact information: e-mail or regular mail address, with one entry per person. The winner will be randomly selected from the entries at the April 12 meeting. The name of the contest will be, “Show Us Your Favorite Atlantic Highlands Tree.” The deadline for the photo contest is also April 8. Submitted photographs will be posted on Facebook, where the winner will also be announced. The prize(s) are still to be determined.

The motion was made to adjourn at 7:57 P.M. by Louise Donoghue, seconded by Mary Wall. All in attendance agreed.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Montana

