



City of Hoboken, Shade Tree Commission

David Calamoneri Matthew Condon Peter Cossio Diana Davis Bo Dziman James J. Tricarico Cathy Yuhas

Agenda

Monday May 12, 2014

7:00 pm

1. Roll call

a. Present Condon, Cossio, Yuhas

b. Also Present - David Calamoneri, Steve Fahmie, Jane Mercado, Peter Bakarich, Guy Vogt (PSE&G)

2. Approval of April Minutes

The minutes for April 2014 were approved.

3. Old Business

- **200 block Washington Street Project** (Condon)

Hufnagel has not completed the planting on the 200 block. The planting should be complete in a week. The iron work from Mola has been on hold.

- **Community Forestry Plan, Paul Cowie & Associates PO** (Calamoneri)

Davis is working with Paul Cowie to write the Community Forestry Plan. The purchase order is ready for Paul Cowie.

- **(Grant 1) Status on \$20,000 CSIP tree pruning grant** (Calamoneri)

The \$20,000 grant for pruning has been received and needs to be used by 2017. There is a \$10,000 match required for this grant. A combination of park and street trees will be pruned in the fall of 2014. A list of priority one and two trees need to be compiled in a Google Doc that can be shared amongst the group.

- **(Grant 2) Status TD Bank Environment Community Education Development Grant & Greater Newark Conservancy** (Yuhas)

It was agreed that the third Saturday in September should be the date for the tree planting, which is part of this grant. Trees will be planted in front of the community garden on 3rd Street and Jackson Street. Calamoneri will communicate this to TD Grant. Yuhas will put together a timeline of the activities that need to be completed for this grant.

- **Arts & Music Festival Booth** (All)

The STC booth at the Arts & Musical Festival was a success. Calamoneri followed up with the list of tree issues from residents. We will have a booth at the September Arts & Music Festival. The tent, chair, and table rental cost the STC \$157.

- **2014 Municipal Membership to the NJ Shade Tree Federation** (Calamoneri)

Calamoneri will follow up on this.

- **Newspaper article on the Shade Tree Commission** (Cossio)

Cossio will write an article about the STC. He will discuss the fall planting. Calamoneri will see if a press release can be done when the article is complete.

-Meeting with Director Pellegrini to Discuss Budget Allocation & Washington Street Maintenance

(Condon)

Condon and Calamoneri met with Director Pellegrini to discuss the budget. Director Pellegrini approves of the STC budget including the CSIP Grant pruning, which will take place in the fall 2014. Calamoneri will confirm the priority one prunes as well as the priority two. Trees that need to be pruned will also be assessed after PSE&G completes their pruning since some of these trees could have been pruned by PSE&G.

There will be funding to support Washington Street and residential plantings. Director Pellegrini agreed to the following watering schedule of Thursdays and Sundays for Washington Street plantings. Watering will begin May 15th.

Director Pellegrini would like to use part of the STC budget to support the community garden on 3rd St and Jackson St. The STC is in support of the community garden, but does not believe this is the proper use of the STC budget, which is for activities that involve street trees. The STC would like to plant trees along the street in front of the community garden according to the requirements of the TD Grant.

- Tree Signage (Fahmie)

Fahmie received pricing from two vendors for the signs. Calamoneri will also look into pricing for signs. Condon will do the artwork for the signs. The signs need to be weatherproof. Volunteers will be needed to place signs on trees. A form needs to be kept to keep track of where the signs are placed.

- All Saints School Tree Education (Yuhas/Condon)

All Saints School wants to develop a nature curriculum based on the trees found in Hoboken. They contacted Condon about tree identification.

- Memorial Tree Plantings (Calamoneri)

Memorial tree plantings are on hold because of plaques. Plaques cannot be installed until the city determines requirements for plaques. Trees can be planted and plaques can be added at a later date.

4. New Business

- PSE&G Trimming (Vogt)

Guy Vogt from PSE&G presented the PSE&G pruning that will take place in Hoboken. Vogt is a certified arborist. PSE&G has a four year trim cycle for Hudson and Bergen Counties. There are three substation areas in Hoboken. Asplundh is the contractor for PSE&G that will be doing the pruning at substations and all street trees that interfere with the main high voltage wire, which is the top wire. There needs to be a certain clearance between the trees and the high voltage wire and this clearance needs to last 4 years. The clearance is 8 feet on both sides, 4 feet below, and 12 feet above. The pruning is mandated by the federal government. This pruning will begin in three weeks. Vogt said that trees should be no more than 35-50 feet tall to prevent interference with high voltage wire. Pin oaks are not good street trees according to PSE&G. PSE&G has free trees and Fahmie is going to reach out to them for the trees for Hoboken. Condon recommended that future PSE&G pruning should take place in either early spring or fall.

- Spring Planting (Calamoneri/Fahmie)

RFP went out publicly for contractors late and came in over the \$36,000 threshold. The vendors were asked to resubmit for half the amount of trees to keep the amount under \$36,000. Only two vendors would go under \$36,000. It is now too late to put a public notice out to bidders since the bids will not be sent in prior

to be planting deadline of May 31st. Plantings will occur in the fall 2014 instead of spring 2014. For the fall planting, a notice to bidders will be used instead of the RFP process. The purchasing agent would like the fall notice to bidders to include the actual number of trees to be planted with an option for a planting in the spring 2015 as an estimate. There was discussion to increase the number of trees to be planted in the fall to 75. As of now, there are 53 confirmed tree sites, which means that a check and a consent form was received for these sites.

- *Environmental Services Report Tree Permits Issued etc.* (Calamoneri)

130 Monroe St - Tree removal approved by Director Pellegrini. No detail provided about the reason for the removal.

9th to 11th Streets on Madison St - Trees were pruned, but the pruning was done poorly.

524 Garden St - A letter was sent them because pavers need to be removed from the tree pit.

722 Willow St - A letter was sent them because dead trees need to be removed and replaced.

608 Grand St - A letter was sent them because dead trees need to be removed and replaced.

339 Bloomfield St - The tree is lifting up the wood that was in between the walls of the tree pit. This needs to be assessed.

- *Plan Review* (All)

Hoboken Cove/Hudson Tea Building plan reviewed for trees. The recommendation is the following: Install pit guards instead of grates because they girdle the trees. Pit guards protect trees from dogs, trash, etc. Cossio will send the recommendations to the Architect. Cossio will contact Tricarico for further information about the process for plan reviews.

5. Adjournment

2014 Future Meetings - June 9, July 14, August 11, September 15, October 20, November 10, December 8.
Meetings held in City Hall basement conference room across from the municipal violations window.