

# THE HOBOKEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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RAVINDER S. BHALLA  
Mayor



Diana Davis, Chairwoman  
Peter Bakarich, III, Commissioner  
Peter Cossio, Commissioner  
Amy Sommer, Commissioner  
Ken Missbrenner, Commissioner  
Jeffrey Pilot, 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate

## Minutes of the April 18, 2018 Shade Tree Commission Meeting

**The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm.**

Open Public Meeting Act statement was read by the commission secretary.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners: Cossio, Sommer, Missbrenner, and Chairwoman Davis.  
1<sup>st</sup> Alternate, Jeffrey Pilot - arrived after roll call.

Absent: Commissioner Bakarich

Also present: Daisy Amado, commission secretary

### **AGENDA:**

#### **1. Approval of the minutes of the March 12, 2018 commission meeting**

*Commissioner Missbrenner made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Commissioner Sommer and all members present unanimously in favor.*

#### **2. Chair's Report**

- Chairwoman went out and inspected the tree on Seventh and Willow by the shoe repair shop, as Commissioner Sommer mentioned concern about this at the March meeting. Chairwoman confirmed there was asphalt up the trunk of the tree. Chairwoman filled out an Open Public Records Act (OPRA) form with the City to find out who the owner is. A few days later Chairwoman inspected the site again and found the tree had been removed without a permit. Chairwoman reached out to the owner and has yet to receive a call back. Chairwoman will follow-up with the City to send out a notice to resolve the issue and if it is not resolved the owner will receive a summons with a fine. Commissioner Sommer asked how do we know when there is a violation and Chairwoman recommended all Commissioners review the Hoboken Shade Tree Commission's Ordinance – she will email the link out.
- Chairwoman had County remove stumps on Park from Observer to Sixth so now trees are ready to be planted.
- Notice was sent out to the owner of a building on Twelfth between Garden and Park for a dead tree at this location. Chair is waiting for a call back.

- The March 23<sup>rd</sup> Spring Planting Bid was sent out. Bidders had ten days to respond. Chair waited until day after bid opening and called Director Pellegrini who advised no one bid, not one bidder. Jeffrey Pilot mentioned he could have Aspen submit a proposal. Discussion ensued. Chair will find out if we are allowed to have Aspen submit since no bids were received but planting needs to get done.
- CSIP Grant – now known as Urban & Community Forestry Program Community Stewardship Incentive Program is due by April 23, 2018. Chair has been working on this with the grant writer and the grant is on its way. We are proposing to use the money to have trees planted in Church Square Park that were removed due to damage, storm, age., etc. Money will also be used to replace trees on Willow. Discussion ensued as to Commissioners looking at Church Square Park and provide recommendations on where to plant trees. Commissioner Missbrenner said the park is chopped up, trees are planted in awkward spaces. He mentioned there is open space for planting by the firemen's memorial but, in general, the whole park needs renovations.
- Arbor Day – Chairwoman reached out to the Superintendent of Schools in connection to planting a tree at Calabro School as they have an empty pit. Chair was advised to speak to the Principal who asked who would be present. Chair also spoke with two members of the Mayor's staff and is waiting to hear back as to whether the Mayor will be able to attend. Commissioner Cossio said he is working on a planning resolution and he has to plant six trees – so he is willing to write a check to the Hoboken Shade Tree Commission. Commissioner Cossio said he just needs a document from the Commission stating he is paying for six trees to be planted and once he receives he will write a check. Discussion ensued as to Commission having a fund.

### **3. 94 Bloomfield – Tree Species Recommendation**

Commission discussed the tree in front of Sobsey's at the March meeting and the owner wanting to remove old pear tree. We no longer have to provide a choice of species as the owner signed up for the Spring Planting program.

### **4. 2018 Spring Tree Planting Update**

This item was previously discussed in the Chair's report.

### **5. Spring Fling Event**

We have 2,000 saplings to give away in individual bags. All Commissioners volunteered to be at event and help out. Saplings are currently at the garage. James Davis from the City of

Hoboken, Department of Environmental Services will transport over on Saturday to Church Square Park. Chair ordered ten tables and folding chairs. Chair also made signs for each species and provided a brief description about the tree. Brown paper bags will also be provided. The Hoboken Shade Tree will be set up at the northwest side of the park facing the library.

#### **6. Waterfront Project**

Chairwoman mentioned that Commissioners have expressed they would like to be more involved in projects around town however she cannot wait months for responses to her emails. Chair again went over what was discussed at the March meeting: Mack Cali leases land from Port Authority. Hoboken Shade Tree Commission received a request for our recommendations in the area from First to where the World War II memorial is located. Discussion ensued as to survey performed a long time ago, etc.

Commissioner Missbrenner mentioned that he surveyed the area of the Mack Cali building and there are all dead trees and even looks like one is pushed over. He said there is also dead trees on park side that need to come down. There is plenty of room to expand tree pits, however there are a couple of areas where trees are too close together. Commissioner mentioned the dead trees have to come down and whatever is put in place should be low maintenance. Median also needs to be addressed. Under drain system not functioning properly.

Chair will send out dates for weekends and Commissioners should respond so as a group everyone can take a walk in the area.

#### **7. Church Square Park Project**

This item was previously discussed in the Chair's report.

#### **8. Five Year Plan Update**

Chairwoman advised Paul Cowie will attend the Commission's May meeting. The Five Year plan is due in November of this year. Mr. Cowie wants to hear from the Commission on accomplishments, where do we envision ourselves five years from now, etc. Chair asked Commissioners to be ready and to read the previous five year plan distributed at meeting today.

#### **9. Public Comments (limited to five minutes per person)**

No members of the public appeared before the commission.

**10. New Business**

- Chair received call from resident regarding diseased trees on the 600 block of Jefferson. This resident is knowledgeable and states trees have fungus and suggested using copper sulfate. 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate Pilot asked if he could take a look at this and diagnose. Chair will send Jeff the exact address where trees are located.

**1<sup>st</sup> Alternate Jeffrey Pilot left the meeting at 8:04pm**

- At last meeting Quanika Stover provided handouts and discussed the Mayor approached by business owner on First Street on decorative lighting around trees. Chair mentioned she researched this matter and spoke to other municipalities. Commission discussed not permitting business owners to wrap trees in lights. Commissioner Cossio advised that business owners would have to obtain a special permit and have conduit installed below base line. Per the Hoboken Shade Tree Commission Ordinance, “No person shall fasten any rope, wire, sign or other device to any trees...” Discussion ensued.

*Commissioner Missbrenner made a motion recommending not to allow decorative lighting around trees per the Hoboken Shade Tree Commission Ordinance with a second from Commissioner Cossio and all members present unanimously in favor.*

*Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Missbrenner and seconded by Commissioner Sommer with all members present in favor.*

**Meeting adjourned at 8:10p.m.**