

# THE HOBOKEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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DAWN ZIMMER  
Mayor



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

## Minutes of the July 10, 2017 Shade Tree Commission Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:16pm.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners: Bakarich, Cossio, 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate Ken Missbrenner and Chairwoman Diana Davis

Absent: Commissioner Sommer

Also present: Daisy Amado, commission secretary  
(note: Director Leo Pellegrini of Department of Environmental Services stopped by before the meeting started and spoke with Commissioners and Chair).

Open Public Meeting Act statement was read by commission secretary.

### **AGENDA:**

#### **1. Approval of the minutes of the May 8, 2017 commission meeting**

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

#### **2. Presentation: VISTA – Green Infrastructure Workforce Program Presentation**

Kelly Diaz and Samuel Rosenthal, two AmeriCorps VISTAs volunteers, advised the commission that between 40 to 50 summer employees were hired by Director Pellegrini. Kelly and Samuel will be teaching the summer employees about trees and proper maintenance; the basic ‘dos and donts;’ and how to identify a tree pit in need of care and how to mulch and weed tree pits. Environmental Services will drop bags of mulch and top soil off at the identified locations. This is a five week summer program and all volunteers are from Hoboken between the ages of 14 to 20. Eventually, they would like to expand the training to residents/community members. They will maintain a maintenance calendar on trees. Volunteers will be concentrating on trees with weeds, trash, stones and unmaintained pits. Park staff will be supervising the volunteers along with Jennifer Gonzalez, Planner from Community Development. Kelly mentioned how she noticed the gap in communications between the municipality and residents as many residents question what are we doing about floods but they don’t know that all the work we are doing in the parks is connected to flood mitigation. Commissioners asked if we could have a list of the volunteers so we can ask for help in the future. Volunteers will be wearing neon t-shirts and working Monday through Thursday from 9am to 2pm. Chair asked that Kelly and Samuel forward a list of tools needed.

### **3. Chair's Report**

- We have two vacancies on the Commission with the recent resignation of Matt Condon.
- Gary Holtzman very helpful in obtaining PSE&G donation and information on remaining funds. The Commission has approximately \$60,000 remaining from the PSE&G donation. We also have available funds in the trust fund money, approximately \$60,000. Chair would like Commission to carefully think how we want to spend and submit proposals on same. Commissioner Cossio suggested using some of the money to remove dead trees. ArboPro has a list of dead trees. Discussion ensued.
- CSIP Grant status – Chairwoman spoke to Stephen Marks, Business Administrator. Mr. Marks assigned Chris Brown to handle. Chris spoke with Chairwoman and advised he is almost finished closing this grant out so next year the Commission may apply again. We are taking care of it and we will get it in 2018.
- Next year we have to submit our Five-Year Plan again, and Chair is applying for \$3,000 which goes to hiring someone to write the grant.
- Commission to discuss ideas on how to spend the money at our August meeting.

### **4. Arbor Pro Update**

Arbor Pro is finished. Discussion as to which trees they advised we should remove from tree list. We have 222 dead trees. Chair needs to re-schedule the training program with ArborPro, she will send an email to Commissioners for availability, and we cancelled last time and needs Commissioners to commit once we set a new date. The training is two parts.

### **5. Spring Tree Planting Status**

Discussion as to very late in the season to be planting, as it was scheduled to be planted in May.

### **6. Review & Recommendations for: 600 Harrison Street**

The following is being proposed: three new trees. There is no detail on the plans as far as tree pits or guards.

Shade Tree recommends one of the following four species from the commission's approved list of trees to be planted: Sweetgum; Swamp White Oak; Willow Oak; European Hornbeam (*Carpinus Betulus*) with the pit minimum of 4'x7'. Additionally, provide three sided and tapered to curb tree pit guards on all three newly planted trees along with bark mulch as per the Commission's standards.

*Commissioner Cossio made a motion to approve the recommendations provided with a second from Commissioner Bakarich with all members present in favor.*

**7. Review & Recommendations for: 461 11<sup>th</sup> Street Lofts, a.k.a. 1024 Adams**

Shade Tree recommends Crimson King species to be planted with the pit to be lengthened to a 4'x7' minimum pit. Additionally, provide three sided and tapered to curb tree pit guards along with bark mulch as per the Commission's standards.

*Commissioner Cossio made a motion to approve the recommendations provided with a second from Commissioner Bakarich with all members present in favor.*

**8. Review & Recommendations for: 826-828 Park Avenue**

The following is being proposed: one new tree. Plans include tree pit guards as recommended by Commission standards.

Shade Tree recommends one of the following three species from the commission's approved list of trees to be planted: Willow Oak; Silver Linden; or Katsura Tree with the expansion of the pit minimum to 4'x7' along with bark mulch as per the Commission's standards.

*Commissioner Cossio made a motion to approve the recommendations provided with a second from Commissioner Missbrenner with all members present in favor.*

**9. Review & Recommendations for: 830-834 Park Avenue**

Chairwoman advised that we are skipping this item as the commission has not received a resolution on same from the Planning Board.

**10. Review & Recommendations for: 601 Jefferson**

Plans include tree pit guards as recommended by Commission standards. Shade Tree recommends one of the following three species from the commission's approved list of trees to be planted: European Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*); Red Maple; or Chinese Elm with the pit minimum of 4'x7' along with bark mulch as per the Commission's standards.

*Commissioner Bakarich made a motion to approve the recommendations provided with a second from Commissioner Missbrenner with all members present in favor.*

**11. Tree Protection Guidelines for Construction Sites**

Chairwoman asked if a Commissioner could work on this and Commissioner Bakarich volunteered. Commission will review at August meeting.

**12. Review/Vote: Tree Trim/Removal Permit**

Chairwoman revised the permit and commission reviewed and discussed revisions.

*Commissioner Missbrenner made a motion to approve the permit to include the revisions discussed with a second from Commissioner Cossio with all members present in favor.*

**13. Review/Vote: Revised Hoboken Tree List**

Commissioners reviewed and discussion ensued. Chairwoman advised that tree list must be revised so we can update on website.

*Commissioner Bakarich made a motion to approve revised tree list with revisions with a second from Commissioner Cossio with all members present in favor.*

**14. Volunteer Events Report – Commissioner Bakarich**

Commissioner Bakarich advised he has a good database of volunteers that he will organize and send to Chairwoman. Commission also discussed the great turnout of volunteers for saplings event.

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

Jennifer Marsh, Hoboken resident, attended meeting and stayed for the duration of the whole meeting. She mentioned tree pruning and all the dead trees around town. Discussion ensued about City Ordinance and responsibility of home owners.

**16. New Business**

- Commissioner Cossio discussed Hoboken 311. He will discuss further with Juan Melli, Communications Manager for the City.
- Commissioner Cossio to work on updating Shade Tree's website when he returns from vacation.

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

**Meeting concluded at 8:54 p.m.**