

THE HOBOKEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

City Hall, 94 Washington Street
Hoboken, New Jersey 07030
Tel: 201-420-2015 Fax: 201-653-0069

DAWN ZIMMER
Mayor



Diana Davis, Chairwoman
Peter Bakarich, III, Commissioner
Matt Condon, Commissioner
Peter Cossio, Commissioner
Amy Sommer, Commissioner
Ken Missbrenner, 1st Alternate

Minutes of the May 9, 2016 Shade Tree Commission Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:06p.m.

The Open Public Meeting Act statement was read by the Commission Secretary.

ROLL CALL:

<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u>	
Commissioner Peter Bakarich	ABSENT
Commissioner Matt Condon	✓
Commissioner Peter Cossio	✓
Commissioner Amy Sommer	✓
Chairwoman Diana Davis	✓
1 st Alternate, Ken Missbrenner	✓

Also Present: Christopher Brown, Designee for Environmental Services; and Daisy Amado, secretary for the commission.

Chairwoman Davis congratulated Ken Missbrenner as he was sworn in today as 1st Alternate to the Commission.

AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes of the April 11, 2016 meeting

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Commissioner Bakarich						✓
Commissioner Condon			✓			
Commissioner Cossio		✓	✓			
Commissioner Sommer	✓		✓			
Chairwoman Davis			✓			
1 st Alternate, Ken Missbrenner			✓			

2. Chair's Report

- April 16th event went well on beautifying and cleaning up Washington Street; we had 30 volunteers; there were no flowers; and Chairwoman flagged down street sweeper from Environmental Services who was extremely helpful and got her mulch.
- On April 19th Commissioner Condon did a presentation to the Hoboken Garden Club on Urban Trees. The presentation was well received.
- On April 26th pansies arrived and two high school students who receive special credit helped plant. The high school students may help out again this week on Washington Street.
- April 29th was Arbor Day event at Wallace and Brandt Schools and unfortunately no one from the Hoboken Shade Tree Commission was present as schedule of events was not made available to Chair until late Thursday afternoon. Chairwoman was there at 8:30am and was going to Wallace at 12:30 but the event was over. Commissioner Sommer mentioned there was a photo on Facebook from event. It was mentioned that Director Pellegrini was there.
- May 1st Arts and Music Festival has been rescheduled to June 12th. Chairwoman picked up poster from James Tricarico and it had water on it so she designed and printed a new one at Staples. Chairwoman needs volunteers. Chris Brown mentioned that if the Commission has no volunteers there will be a table for the Green Team and they can have material for the Commission at their table. Commissioner Sommer said she possibly can attend; Commissioner Condon mentioned he would be out of town on that date; and Commissioner Cossio stated he could attend in the afternoon. Chairwoman mentioned t-shirts and she would need Director Pellegrini's approval on same.
- May 7th 'biggest event ever;' huge event; and great turnout for the saplings.

3. Tree Topping Update

Chairwoman spoke with Commission attorney in connection to the Tree Permit form and the only way to dissipate information without changing the City's Ordinance is to provide a handout informing that Hoboken no longer permits tree topplings; we would attach pictures; this is all in an attempt to stop people from tree topping. Commissioners asked if this applies to PSE&G and Chairwoman replied no. Discussion ensued among the Commission as to the language written behind the tree permit. In the first paragraph, the second to last sentence, shall be omitted which reads: *"When the excavation of a hole results in a sidewalk width of less than three feet, the tree pit may be covered by Belgian blocks laid in sand joints, flush with the sidewalk."* The next sentence shall be revised as follows: *"In all other cases, you are encouraged to install a pit guard, 12-18 inches high with three sided guard pit around the entire perimeter of the tree hole."* In the next paragraph, the second sentence shall be omitted which reads: *"If there has not been an inch of rain during a week, a newly planted tree needs to be watered!"* Discussion further ensued as to City's Ordinance being too broad.

Motion to approve revision of Tree Permit to include attorney language and revise as stated.

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Commissioner Bakarich						✓
Commissioner Condon			✓			
Commissioner Cossio		✓	✓			
Commissioner Sommer			✓			
Chairwoman Davis	✓		✓			
1 st Alternate, Ken Missbrenner			✓			

4. Spring Tree Planting Program - Status

Chairwoman mentioned Commissioner Condon organizing with site inspectors. Chairwoman spent last four weeks contacting people on the list. Three (3) dead trees have to be removed. Director Pellegrini will receive Request List tomorrow to get the process going. Planting should be done by middle of June. Commission asked species of trees and Chairwoman stated she did not know until Director Pellegrini picks nursery. Discussion about trees being planted in June and weather related issues, etc. Commissioner Condon mentioned concern with another budget issue as the mass majority of the trees on the list need pits. Discussion ensued as to grant money – not too much left. “\$50,000 a year is all we get.” Chairwoman advised Commission what monies are left from PSE&G and TD grants which has to include Spring/Fall planting and Washington Street. Commission agreed to ask for more money in the budget for next year. Commissioner Condon mentioned that it is justifiable to show what it costs to do a Spring/Fall tree planting.

Commissioner Condon mentioned that as of May 1st all trees should be getting watered. Chairwoman advised Director Pellegrini said he has been watering trees. Discussion as to removing the gator bags from the 1 and 200 blocks and relocating to the 3 and 4 blocks. Chairwoman mentioned perhaps High School kids helping with this.

5. Vote on applications reviewed and recommendations given at April 11th meeting wherein no vote was taken on the following:

726-732 Grand Street (RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL FILLED OUT & SIGNED BY CHAIR)

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Commissioner Bakarich						✓
Commissioner Condon	✓		✓			
Commissioner Cossio			✓			
Commissioner Sommer		✓	✓			
Chairwoman Davis			✓			
1 st Alternate, Ken Missbrenner			✓			

113-117 Monroe Street (RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL FILLED OUT & SIGNED BY CHAIR)

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Commissioner Bakarich						✓
Commissioner Condon	✓		✓			
Commissioner Cossio			✓			
Commissioner Sommer		✓	✓			
Chairwoman Davis			✓			
1 st Alternate, Ken Missbrenner			✓			

6. Application for review and recommendation for 117-119 Harrison Street

Plans reviewed and the following recommendations were made by Commissioner Sommer and discussed with the Commission:

- Minimum of 4 x 8 tree pit
- Sloped three sided

117-119 Harrison Street (RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL FILLED OUT & SIGNED BY CHAIR)

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Commissioner Bakarich						✓
Commissioner Condon	✓		✓			
Commissioner Cossio			✓			
Commissioner Sommer			✓			
Chairwoman Davis			✓			
1 st Alternate, Ken Missbrenner		✓	✓			

(THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS NOT ON THE AGENDA, BUT WAS DISCUSSED NEXT)

Application for review and recommendation for 100-108 Paterson

Plans reviewed and the following recommendations were made by Commissioner Sommer and discussed with the Commission:

- Minimum of 4 x 10 tree pit
- Sloped three sided

100-108 Paterson (RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL FILLED OUT & SIGNED BY CHAIR)

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Commissioner Bakarich						✓
Commissioner Condon	✓		✓			
Commissioner Cossio			✓			
Commissioner Sommer			✓			
Chairwoman Davis			✓			
1 st Alternate, Ken Missbrenner		✓	✓			

7. Vote on two trees and tree guard at 618 Madison Street

Chairwoman passed photograph and scale along with Engineer's report. Chairwoman advised she saw the tree and it was healthy and has three sided guard with slope.

Motion to approve two trees.

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Commissioner Bakarich						✓
Commissioner Condon		✓	✓			
Commissioner Cossio			✓			
Commissioner Sommer	✓		✓			
Chairwoman Davis			✓			
1 st Alternate, Ken Missbrenner			✓			

8. Public Comments

No members of the public appeared before the Commission.

9. New Business

- Commissioner Cossio discussed 84 Willow, between Newark and Willow and how the trees are super small. Asked if the Commission reviewed? Chairwoman will get the plans.
- Chairwoman asked for volunteer to write email to residents reminding them to water their trees. Commissioner Cossio has an old email from Fanny and will forward to the Chairwoman.

- Question as to mulching new tree with gator bags – Yes.
- Chairwoman discussed how the list with people requesting trees has to be revised; some items on the list state that trees were planted in January 2015 which is not true. Discussion about checks forwarded to David Calamoneri and how David suggested they go directly to Chairwoman, etc.
- Discussion as to CEUs. Chairwoman mentioned if we do not have enough she can have a workshop. Commissioner Sommer advised if she goes back to event in October this year she will acquire CEUs.

Motion to close the meeting.

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Commissioner Bakarich						✓
Commissioner Condon	✓		✓			
Commissioner Cossio		✓	✓			
Commissioner Sommer			✓			
Chairwoman Davis			✓			
1 st Alternate, Ken Missbrenner			✓			

Meeting concluded at 8:07p.m.