

THE HOBOKEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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RAVINDER S. BHALLA
Mayor

JENNIFER GONZALEZ
Director
Environmental Services



Amy Sommer, Chairwoman
Ken Missbrenner, Commissioner
Jeffrey Pilot, 1st Alternate
Edwin Marcus Perry, 2nd Alternate

JUNE 9, 2020 HOBOKEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

In accordance with guidelines issued by the State of New Jersey for conducting public meetings due to the COVID19 outbreak, a **Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:06pm.** Open Public Meeting Act statement read by commission secretary.

ROLL CALL: Commissioners Missbrenner, Perry, and Chair Sommer all present.
Jeffrey Pilot, absent.

Also participated via zoom: Director Jennifer Gonzalez of Environmental Services and Daisy Amado, commission secretary.

AGENDA:

1. Approval of the minutes of the May 12, 2020 virtual commission meeting

Commissioner Missbrenner motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Commissioner Perry and all three members present unanimously in favor.

2. Hoboken Business Alliance – Paul Cowie Inventory/Assessment of Washington Street

Per Director Gonzalez, Paul Cowie has nearly completed his assessment. Pictures were uploaded and he is finalizing his spreadsheet, and there were some issues with geo tagging photos. Mr. Cowie will provide two series of recommendations: 1) immediate and 2) fall. The first series will include work needing to be completed by the end of June such as trees requiring weeding, mulching, pruning, etc. The goal is for immediate tree work including hanging tree baskets to be up by the end of the month. The second report of recommendations will include items for the fall and bigger projects. Quick discussion on vendor watering hanging baskets. Once the report is ready, Director Gonzalez will send for commission review.

3. NJDEP Grant

Chair discussed tree sizes on bids and how the sizes are required to be counted as A, B, or C we have them as medium/large. Director Gonzalez will update tree sizes on bid document to medium. Discussion on map requirement for 44 locations – we will ask our planners to assist. Commissioner Pilot is an arborist and has the qualifications therefore he will sign off as preparer. Chair discussed two year guarantee period and 15% retainage and changing the amount - Director Gonzalez will revise. DEP needs to approve first, and then out to bid around August and hopefully planting in September/October once weather is cooler. Director confirmed we overestimated on bid, maximum of 35 with 15 medium and 10 large. Chair mentioned we should have backup locations.

Discussion on alerting residents who are approved for planting and advising we are waiting for bids and process to be finalized. Chair will send email to Director Gonzalez who will update the website.

4. Fall Planting Plan

Discussed along with the NJDEP grant.

5. Summer Tree Care – Message to Residents

Chair would like a message on the website relating to drought conditions. Chair will send Director Gonzalez an email. Director Gonzalez discussed breaking down Commissioner Perry's community message to ten Facebook posts or one message per week. We can have Green Team send out messages. We also need to include recruitment for new commissioners.

6. Rebuild by Design – Upcoming Review

Chair advised she had a conference call with Caleb Stratton, Assistant Business Administrator for the City of Hoboken, regarding Rebuild by Design as she noticed many trees up for removal with this project. Per Chair, she wants the commission involved early in the process to know where trees are being removed and why. In addition, where will new trees be planted? Commissioner Missbrenner agreed, he definitely wants to see what trees are going to be removed. Per Director Gonzalez, not sure we will lose many trees. Many new trees were planted in new Cove Park. Next public meeting invited to see design presentation. Late summer / early fall as soon as more information is available, the commission will receive. Chair mentioned concern with deadline of 2022 for this project, but Caleb advised it is still in the schematic design development.

7. Public Comments (limited to 5 minutes per person)

No members of the public joined the zoom meeting nor dialed in to participate.

8. New Business

- Discussion on Aphids, a minute bug that feeds by sucking sap from plants. Commissioner Perry advised he uses an organic Pyrethrin spray which helps get rid of them. This spray may be purchased at any garden center.
- Street planting specs updated on website to 2½ to 3 inch minimum caliber.
- 415 Monroe Planning Board plant ten trees they picked random species – discussion.
- Chair discussed sapling project on hold and Arbor Day event. We only proclaimed Arbor Day at City Council. Per Commissioner Perry, we had Home Depot and Lowes ready to donate perhaps we can have an event in summer or early fall. Chair will reach out to DEP and see if they still have saplings. We can discuss new ideas at next meeting.
- Director discussed Shade Tree Commission membership. Few months ago, Peter Cossio resigned and today Jeff Pilot advised he is moving out of town. We need to step up recruitment on social media. Director Gonzalez will send a note to the Green Team and inquire if any interested candidates.
- Attendance for July meeting discussed and both Commissioners Missbrenner and Perry advised they are available for same.
- Commissioner Perry sent a picture of a tree at 723 Bloomfield and discussion of bees flying in and out of a cavity in the trunk. Commissioner Missbrenner advised the bees will not bother

anyone they are taking advantage of space. Discussion on this London Plain Tree's lean and how PSE&G trimmed the canopy back, not much weight on top.

- Discussion on Tree Inspection List and items in yellow still needing to be inspected.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Commissioner Missbrenner and seconded by Chairwoman Sommer with all three members present unanimously in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51p.m.