

Borough of Red Bank
Shade Tree Committee
May 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Remedios Quiroz.
Adequate notice of the meeting has been provided.

Members Present: Michele Brody, Bill Brooks, Boris Kofman, Debbie Marks, Brigid McCarthy, Remedios Quiroz, Carolyn Robertshaw

Absent:

Ex-officio member: Nancy Facey-Blackwood

Guests:

Topics Discussed (updates in *italics*)

1. *April 15 meeting minutes approved.*
2. *Training. Boris and Brigid attended a webinar. Boris shared a handout on native + non-native plants.*
3. *Tree inventory. Brigid, Carolyn, Debbie, Michele and Boris finished Zone 5.*
4. *Marine Park. The Event Space construction is under way. Trees will be planted in the fall.*
5. *Outreach goal for the year - encourage tree plantings on private property. STC can use the new borough online tool to share info with the public. Nancy asked the Borough Attorney about providing trees to homeowners. An Agreement with the Homeowner document will be shared shortly.*
6. *CFMP. All members – take a look at the current plan and see what can be re-used or updated. Boris has been adding new info to comply with the current guidelines.*
7. *Trees City USA banner – was flown around Arbor Day.*
8. *The Arbor Day Proclamation was read at the Council meeting. Boris accepted the signed proclamation for the STC.*
9. *Tree City USA decals – Debbie will look for a place for them.*
10. *Spring Planting*
 - a. *The new trees planted at 131 Oakland St, 232 Drs. Parker Blvd and 58 Locust Ave are dead. All three trees should be replaced under the warranty.*
 - b. *Do we have time to fulfill a few outstanding requests from residents to plant trees in front of their houses?*
 - i. *Gold St parking lot*
 - ii. *23 Bank St*
 - iii. *112 Catherine St*

Terrence got quotes for several species of different calipers. Bill will measure the planting strip widths. Based on that, we'll make a recommendation to Terrence.
11. *White St Parking Lot. STC will pay for approximately four trees. STC will be under the amount for going out for bid. Planning on planting 4.5" caliper Magnolias (Southern, Star). Bill had contacted 3 contractors, but none of them responded. Bill suggests having the contractor move the existing trees to Bellhaven. Remedios sent the draft replanting plan to Terrence for confirmation of the activities marked DPU. Terrence responded that DPU can handle it, with appropriate coordination. Bill recommends having a bid spec written and hiring a contractor because DPU won't have the resources. Bill volunteered to write a bid spec. Debbie suggested using a fence to keep the snow out. 4-4.5" DBH may be possible. Maybe plant 2 trees this year and 2 next. Need to pack the soil to keep the tree stable. Transplanting existing trees probably won't be feasible. Bill shared a list of 3 contractors to get quotes from.*
12. *Harrison Ave Road Program. The roots of the two trees next to 292 E. Front St. have been cut and these trees should be removed in Bill's opinion. The trees are still there. Remedios will notify Jim Gant.*
13. *JCP&L sent us a second list of the Borough streets that are scheduled for routine tree work.*
14. *Michele drafted a letter to residents to warn against pruning public trees. Ask RedBankGreen or TAPinfo to publish it.*
15. *Linden Place Road Program. Per Nancy: It will include sidewalk and driveway repairs as necessary. The resolution also contains the design phase, which included meeting with borough representatives to include Complete and Green Streets features in the proposed project limits. Borough representatives should include input from the Community Development Director, the Complete and*

Green Streets Advisory Committee, STC and the EC/GT.

16. English Plaza. The 4 dead/dying trees were removed. The contractor who had planted them never responded to the engineer's requests.
17. Broad St. Project. Long term plan – enlarge the tree pits and put in better soil; root pruning and planting smaller trees. Debbie contacted River Center about the replanting. River Center can't do it until the fall.

Maintenance/planting requests

1. Globe Garage Trees – We'll ask DPU to water them. Need to put gator bags on them.
2. Gator bags removal – completed.
3. DPU and contractors have been removing the trees on the removals list.
4. Trees on Catherine St, Brownstones at Red Bank - The HOA president reported that 2 trees in front of the townhouses died. Per Boris' inspection: the two trees at #29 and #31 aren't quite dead yet, but not looking hopeful. Recommendation: Add to removals list and for future planting. A third one, at #27, is also starting to decline. Recommendation: Keep an eye on it and if it continues to decline add to the removals list and list for future planting. They're all Hop-Hornbeams, planted by the developer in 2019 when the project was completed. They didn't look good even right after the planting. Remedios responded.
5. 46 Chestnut St - This tree is in our removals list. The resident asked if they could transplant the tree to their backyard and have a replacement tree planted. Remedios responded that STC is OK with that. Added the location to the list for future planting.
6. 22 Worthley St – Resident requested for the Borough to plant a tree in the ROW. There's room for a small tree. Remedios responded.
7. N. Prospect Ave - Jim Gant requested STC recommendations on trees to plant to help prevent erosion: Remedios responded with trees that have strong rooting and water-tolerant. Bill pointed out that the slope is about 45 degrees and so too steep for planting trees. To prevent erosion, shrubs like Junipers (3-4' high at maturity) and grasses should be planted on the slope. Bill will ask landscapers.
8. 39 Worthley St on Marion St - Boris reported: the Zelkova has a fungus at grade and the crown isn't looking healthy. Added to the removals list.
9. 232 Bridge Ave. Per Boris: The London Plane has a deep rot, which goes through most of the trunk; plus rot higher up and poor structure. Added to the removals list.
10. 115 Catherine St - sidewalk lift. The buyer wants to keep the tree and wants to know what to do about the sidewalk lift. We recommended using concrete to even up the sidewalk.
11. 59 Madison Ave. Per Boris: We've been monitoring the Red Maple since 2016, when the homeowner asked us to remove it. The rot is pretty deep now, at least a foot in. The structure is poor, after having been pruned by JCP&L multiple times. There are surface roots. Recommendation: Add to the removals list.
12. 311 & 321 River Road - the two Ash trees are dead or dying. Probably victims of Emerald Ash Borers. Here are photos <https://photos.app.goo.gl/McibtSrwyqbRNYKdG6> Added to the removals list.
13. 120 Wallace on McLaren - the 2 trees planted in 2022 are leaning. They should be staked.
14. 150 River Road, on Throckmorton. A resident reported that the tree is in poor condition. Bill will take a look.
15. 25 Band Street. Homeowner expressed concern about the sidewalk lift. There's a disabled child in the household. Recommend smoothing it out with concrete.
16. 33 Elm Pl. Bill reports that the Pin Oak has rot. Bill will follow up.
17. Issues discovered during the inventory inspections:
 - a. Around the corner from 157 Leighton Ave - the Sycamore has large cavities.
 - b. 238 Drs Parker – the Sycamore has a dead limb, cavities in other limbs.
 - c. Count Basie Park – a Red Maple has a large cavity in the crotch. Recommend removing the limb.

Public Comments

Planning/Zoning Board Applications

1. Shawna shared the deposits made into the Shade Tree Trust in 2024. We are still missing the status

of some development applications. Remedios will follow up.

No Updates

1. County trees. Bill is working with the County Div. of Shade Tree on getting hazardous trees removed. DPU will try to remove the ones they can. The County is ok with that. We'll let the county know when we remove one of their trees.
2. Hazardous trees survey. Bill is working on it.
3. 56 Leighton Ave. Homeowner expressed concerns: "limbs are growing into the overhead power lines, roots are lifting up the sidewalk causing an unsafe pedestrian walking condition, and roots have grown into the septic service at 60 Leighton Ave." Bill or DPU will investigate the condition of the cavities.
4. Website. More updates are needed. Remedios will follow up.
 - a. Procedure for requesting permission to plant their own tree in the Right of Way (FAQ #3). The request form is just a PDF. How is it going to get submitted? And the links for selecting a species and uploading a picture are not active.
 - b. Add link to the new tree ordinance.
 - c. Remove outdated info.
 - d. Membership table
 - e. Add the 2024 Accomplishments Report

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 17 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Boris Kofman, Secretary