

MEETING AGENDA

Location:	Borough Hall, Council Chambers
Date:	Sept 15, 2026
Time:	7:00 PM

AGENDA DETAILS

I. INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Approve July 21 Minutes

II. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Seminars/Webinars?
- b. 247 Bridge Ave - Request to remove a tree:"We are in the middle of selling our property on 247 bridge ave, and there is a storage tank adjacent to the sidewalk that needs to be removed. I have attached photos of the tree, sidewalk, and building. In order to remove it, we would need to remove a tree on 247 bridge ave that is surrounded by electrical wires."

The tree is a very healthy, large (31 DBH) American Sycamore.

Remedios referred the request to Shawna -

"Our recommendation is to find a way of removing the storage tank that will not require the removal of the tree.

Per Ordinance 2024-14 If the tree is removed, they should be required to plant 3 trees of at least 3" caliper size and/or donate \$900 per tree not planted

We prefer to keep the large Sycamore Tree.

Large trees pull more particulate pollution from the air and absorb and store significantly higher amounts of carbon dioxide than young trees due to their larger leaf area and greater total biomass."Eastside Park: A White Oak located near the playground had to be removed by DEP after large bands of contaminated material were discovered beneath it. DEP would like to replace the tree with a Red Oak. STC response: Because of the Bacterial Leaf Scorch that affects Oaks. It is best to plant

another species. We recommend Black Tupelo. - A Black Tupelo was planted. The tree is inside the fenced enclosed area so it is hard to inspect.

c. 4 MacLaren - request to remove the tree due to sidewalk lift. STC recommendation: The sidewalk lift is minimal. The tree is healthy.. We recommend evening up the sidewalk lift with cement. Update: The tree was removed by DPU.

d. 135 South St - Request to plant a tree on the ROW. STC was OK for them to plant a tree. Because of the overhead wires we recommended either Service Berry or Japanese Lilac.

e. 5 new trees were planted - Boris noticed that the rope and burlap were not removed

i. 70 Oakland - Black Tupelo.

ii. 145 Monmouth - 2 Japanese Tree Lilacs

iii. 146, 150 Monmouth - Regal Prince Oak

iv. Per Jerry : "We spoke with Holmdel Nursery on this and asked why they left the burlap on the root balls.

Their reasoning was to keep root ball in the burlap which biodegrades quickly and leave the sisal rope around the tree. This would eliminate the need to stake the tree. They stated that only if it is plastic around the bottom should it be cut.

Not saying they are right but wanted to get their reasoning and share it.

If we need to cut the ropes off of all the trees, which I think we have, we will. Removing the burlap from all root balls at this point would involve digging all up, I would imagine.

I think I saw some trees like this in Marine Park as well. "

f. 53 Broad - The tree has a couple of large dead limbs. Referred to DPU.

g. 64 Locust - a resident in the area reported "We lost a decently sized shade tree on Locust Ave as a result of the high winds a few nights ago. I also think it may have been weakened to begin with as a result of the (much needed!) sidewalk replacement as part of the new home construction at 64 Locust Ave. A" He is requesting planting 2 shade trees on the strip to replace the lost tree.

Per Boris: it is a pin oak. He noticed that a large root had been cut when the sidewalk was replaced. He suggested looking into the status of the construction at 70 Locust where we recommended the planting of two trees.

STC didn't get a chance to comment on the application. Per Remedios' request, Shawna shared the resolution of 70 Locust. The resolution referred to the landscape plan that we didn't get a chance to see.

- h. 183 Drs Parker - Jerry shared the plan for removal and replanting of trees. They are removing a 13" DBH maple tree which is not in good shape . They are planting 3 harvest gold crabapples and 2 Dogwoods in the front yard. Two of the crabapples are close to the sidewalk. We are OK with the plan.

- i. Request for trees at the entrance to the Primary School. Referred to Superintendent Ramage.

- j. 138 Drs Parker Blvd - Station Pedestrian Intersection Improvements (Dr James Parker and Bridge Intersection) that T&M is handling. T&M never sent the plan to STC for review. Per Mike: "The plans call for removal for the two (2) red maple trees on the Dr. James Parker Blvd side of the Boys and Girls Club and trimming of one (1) red maple on the Bridge Avenue side."

Per Tree Expert: "The 2 red maple trees at #138 Dr James Parker have many leaders, with no real central leader. I have concerns with the viability of these trees in the long term due to the poor form they both exhibit. Also, it appears the 2nd tree has been damaged by large vehicles passing by. In addition to the trees' poor form and health, they are planted to flank a handicap curb ramp. This is a concern as the trees can block visibility of a pedestrian entering the roadway. Further, they are lifting the sidewalk and Belgian blocks and are planted in too small of a pit for a tree of this size. Our office recommends removing these two red maple trees. Consider expanding 1 planting pit and providing 1 replacement tree only."

Per Mike: "I discussed this recommendation with Jim Gant and Jerry Cerrai and we ultimately decided that since the 2nd tree (further from the intersection) wasn't an immediate hazard, that we should try to save. Final decision will be made following removal of the cobblestone, surrounding sidewalk, and adjacent curb to see if the improvements can be constructed without severely damaging the roots. The other tree (closer to the intersection) is affecting sight distance at a heavily trafficked and problematic intersection and needs to go...the tree on the Bridge Avenue side is just being trimmed because it is located under the powerlines."

- k. 44 Wallace street - Sidewalk lift and large number of acorns the tree produces.
- l. Other new business

III. OLD BUSINESS

- a. CFMP - almost there. Boris, Michele, Remedios confirmed their sections are complete. Further updates were made to make sure it addresses all the items included in the provided sample CFMP. Remedios sent the CFMP to Nancy for comments. We should be ready to submit it now. Remedios is doing a final check before submitting.
- b. Broad St plantings - The trees have been installed. Boris reported the following to DPU
 - i. Rope around the trunk of one of the newly installed trees, the burlap and possibly the wire basket have not been removed. Per Jerry: "All trees were checked and addressed as needed yesterday." That would be June 12. Boris noticed that the ropes were removed but the burlap remained.
 - ii. The gator bag on the tree on Broad near mechanic hasn't been filled while the gator bag on the other trees was filled. Per Jerry: Will have the team fill tomorrow morning. That would be June 14.
- c. Marine Park Tree Plantings
 - 1. Boris noticed that some trees that are on the plan are missing.
 - 2. Remedios noticed a dead tree
 - 3. Per Mike: "Shari will confirm quantities during final inspection and any missing trees will be planted, but would not recommend planting them until the Fall due to the heat. Will follow up after final inspection. " Every dead trees will be replaced after inspection.
 - 4. Remedios asked Mike for an update on the inspection: "We are worried about keeping the ropes and burlap on the trees longer."
- d. No spring planting due to lack of response from the selected vendor, we will try again in the fall.
- e. White Street parking lot replanting - Bill reported that Southern Magnolias are not the best candidate for planting. Next Steps:
 - i. Remedios sent out the Revised White St Replanting Plan - Jerry please confirm the activities marked DPU are OK with you.
 - ii. Decide what species we want to plant. Preferably a species easier to find in the area. Bill suggested Chinese Redbuds. Michele suggested Japanese Zelkovas. Any other suggestions?

- iii. Remedios' recommendation: Instead of planting 4-4.5" caliper trees we should start with 3-3.5" trees, the size we usually plant. This will allow us to plant sooner and allow the trees to grow with time.
 - iv. Let's work on this for the fall.
 - v. Carolyn reached out to Colonial for recommendations on tree species.
 - vi. Let's decide on the species and request Colonial to visit the site and make necessary recommendations such as replacing the soil, etc.
- f. Tree Canopy Expansion Program Phase 1 -
- 1. Received a request from 195-197 Mechanic.
 - a) The location qualifies for the program
 - b) Let's look for a tree to provide to the homeowner.
 - 2. Other things to consider -
 - a) Maximum budget per tree \$150
 - b) List of suitable species -
 - c) Nurseries to consider other than Colonial - Casola Farms, others?
 - 3. Plan - slowly expand to targeted areas. Drummond to Westside and Sunset Avenues, both East and West, and the three short streets south of W. Westside Ave - Carmen, Clifford, Clinton. Maybe include Chapin and the streets around it too.
 - 4. We should send the letter to the Westside and Sunset Aves.
 - 5. NOTE: we haven't really received any request from our mailings to Drummond homeowners.
- g. 14 Maple Ave- Remedios reported mushrooms growing on the trunk and one long dead branch sticking out over the road. Bill contacted Steve Baker.
- h. Other open items from July minutes

IV. PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD APPLICATIONS

None

V. CONCLUSION

- a. Next meeting will be held on Oct 20, 2026