

Minutes of the BBSTC – Wednesday – March 6, 2024

- Call to Order: 7:00 pm
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- Roll Call:
 - Larry Bagwell - Present *
 - Anne Gubitosi - Present *
 - Nick Kosarych - Present *
 - Noelle Weinberg - Present
 - Tom Gavin - Present *
 - Caroline Davidson - Present *
 - Susan Pearsall - Absent
 - Jane DeNoble, Liaison - Present
 - John Weber, Liaison - Present
- Minutes For Last Meeting: Motion by A. Gubitosi to accept; N. Kosarych second. Approved.
- Applications:
 - 24-006 – 201 4th Ave – Remove 7 trees (Priv) 7 replacements. Demolition of home and reconstruction. A blueprint of property and tree locations were included for STC member review. All trees are on private property. T. Gavin asks how the STC follows-up when commitment to replace requires lengthy wait? L. Bagwell replied that STC conducts “audits”. Applicants have been “fairly good” - just a few who did not complete commitment. Need to have agreed-upon Audit process and penalties for non compliance. Motion by T. Gavin to approve; A. Gubitosi second. Approved.
- Wishing Tree Applications – To Date – 2 applications. STC is behind in “Wishing tree applications. L. Bagwell asks for STC members to look on their own street for locations where residents will agree to sponsor a wishing tree. “Bring wishing tree applications with you!” J. Weber suggests looking for blocks with few or no trees.
- Honor Me Applications – To Date – 1 application. L. Bagwell is concerned with the low number - STC was disadvantaged by missing the Borough mailing. T. Gavin will ask the Mayor to include in his Newsletter.
- Spring Event plantings opportunities:
 - New project to plant “habitat” plantings on “2nd Avenue Triangle”:. Bagwell spoke with Biagio about 100 block plantings on 2nd Avenue. DPW supervisor B. Cofone, who was supportive. Mr. Cofone questioned if planting will need to be watered? N. Weinberg suggests that watering is not needed, plantings will be salt tolerant; low maintenance and only need to be trimmed in the fall. N. Weinberg suggests that this area would be easy to make it a wildlife accredited space; and perhaps plant trees in “second median” next year. J. Weber suggests watering once a week early on, until the plantings are established. C. Davidson suggests to align project with organizations that support endangered species (e.g.: Monarch Butterflies). N. Kosarych asks if these plantings may qualify for grant opportunities.

- Main Street opportunities: L. Bagwell asked B. Cofone, DPW Supervisor - who is supportive, suggests that the STC should pick out some locations with tree wells that are in the “better shape” tree wells - Block and Address. T. Gavin volunteers to pick locations. STC will donate budget dollars to plant trees on Main St. J. Weber suggests expanding the course of bricks to make tree wells bigger. T. Gavin asks if there is a standard measure for the tree wells - or can there be different sizes? N. Kosarych asks if trees on Main St. could have signs? J. DeNoble suggests better use of Facebook that STC is “looking for a home for a few good trees”.
- Arbor Day: L. Bagwell suggests Second Ave. Park. J. DeNoble will work with the elementary school students to conduct a tree tour of school property on March 25, 2024. Students do artwork and prepare for Arbor Day.
- Core Training - Tabled. S. Persall is coordinating but was not able to attend the STC meeting.
- 2023 Accomplishments Report prepared by N. Kosarch and will present at Council Meeting on March 13, 2024.
- Community Outreach/Media
 - Oldest Tree in Bradley Beach - N. Kosarych reports 19 trees posted, and have inventory of 25 plaques. Still have approximately 20 more trees that are candidates for plaques. J. Weber volunteered to help N. Kosarych.
 - Media – Coast Star and Coastar. No reported activity regarding newspapers. No Tree of the Month candidates this time of the year - no leaves.
- Ordinance Modifications. L. Bagwell will pull together a list of member recommendations and will share with members to seek agreement. T. Gavin has completed a detailed review of the Ordinance and will send his highlighted issues to L. Bagwell. L. Bagwell wants to complete it in the next two weeks. N. Kosarych suggests that the STC shares with Storm water compliance for minimal requirements. L. Bagwell is reviewing State sanctioned language to use as guide for inclusion in STC proposed draft. Example suggestions for Ordinance amendments include:
 - Fees/Fines
 - 1 meeting per month
 - Revise Onboarding/removal of members
 - Assessing fines process
 - Lot Clearing
 - NJ State Stormwater requirements alignment
 - Responsibility for maintenance of trees on Main St - property owner **OR** Borough? J. Weber suggests to consider change in Borough policy to require Borough maintenance. Resident T. J. Coan prefers to leave alone.
- Calendar - Next Meeting – 4/3/2024. L. Bagwell asks if also hold meeting on 4/17/24 in preparation of Spring Planting. Members agree.
 - Earth Day – 4/20/24 10:00-4:00 pm; L. Bagwell has informed Amy Hall that STC will participate (this will be the third consecutive year).

- Arbor Day – 4/26/24 – 4:00 pm. Will ask Mayor Larry Fox to read proclamation. L. Bagwell will pull together an agenda to review at next STC meeting. Will do dedication to the BBEX Senior Class.
- Spring Planting Event – 5/4/24 9:00 am. L. Bagwell spoke with B. Cofone, DPW Supervisor. L. Bagwell requested volunteers. J. Weber offers to help coordinate.
- Memorial Day Parade – 5/25/24 10:00 am. The town is looking for people who will March in the Parade. N. Kosarych has a template for a Banner and will follow-up with L. Bagwell. J. DeNoble suggests that marchers could use “Tree City” Flag may not be enough interest from members?
- Budget Updates: Shade Tree Account \$16,207.74
- Commission Comments:
 - T. Gavin: Substantial Jewish community. Maybe reach out to Rabbi to see if interest in “Celebrating Nature and Trees”. T. Gavin will ask Rabbi if interested to work with STC to align with “Calling of their faith”.
 - N. Kosarych: Continuing education units are low. For Grant the STC needs eight credits for the year. Currently out of compliance - only have 5 CEUs so far. If the STC does not satisfy the CEU target, STC will lose grant opportunities. The tree organization will consider any new CEUs this year - will be counted towards 2023. Also they are looking at revising criteria for certification. Likely will want more information as to how the town has supported the canopy.
- Liaison Comments:
 - J. DeNoble says that the “STC members are awesome”
 - J. Weber agrees with J. DeNoble
- Public Comments:
 - T.J. Coan suggests that B. Cofone may need to rent an auger for a day to drill existing tree roots in empty tree wells on Main St.
- Close: Motion to close by A. Gubitosi, T. Gavin second. Approved.

* Voting members for this meeting.