

**Closter Shade Tree Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Monday, July 12, 2021

8:00 p.m.

Held remotely via Zoom

**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

**II. Roll Call**

Present: Nils Abate, Chair; Todd Bradbury; Scott Devlin, Council Liaison;  
Miriam Lockhart, Secretary/Environmental Commission Liaison; Anthony  
Lupardi, Sr.; George Paschalis; Tsun Tam

Absent: George Futterknecht

**III. Approval of Minutes.**

The June 14, 2021 minutes were approved as amended.

**IV. Public Comment - none**

**V. Old Business**

a) Watering newly planted shade trees. Budget was passed, includes \$2,500 for watering. There are 3 dead oaks from 2019 planting. \$800/tree to replace.

b) 80 Oak Street. Shade trees heavily topped, severe damage. Chairman Abate will ask Mr. Fuchs to send a Notice of Violation to the homeowner, advising that further damage will incur penalties.

c) 47 Knickerbocker. No zones of protection installed around trees. Update on STC request to deny permits until zones of protection installed.

d) 63 Bergenline. Borough attorney memorandum advises that the bond will be held for 2 years from the date of planting. Mr. Bradbury will research the planting date.

e) 174 Durie - Trees which have been removed are on the site plan. Chairman Abate will contact Building Dept.

f) Purchase Commission table skirt/banner. Mr. Paschalis will research.

g) STC webpage - Mr. Paschalis and Mr. Bradbury created 3 new info sheets to assist Closter residents. New Tree Planting; Avoiding Tree Damage During Construction; Protecting Newly Planted Trees from Deer Damage

h) NJUCF Stewardship Grant. Applied for \$30,000 for town tree inventory.

**VI. New Business**

a) 57 Eckerson - 7/2 request for removals. Two trees will be removed.

b) 6 Jason Woods - 7/1 request to inspect

c) 63 Harrington Ave - 7/2 request for inspection

- d) Dead tree Piermont & Vervalen
- e) 63 Harvard St. Builder has filed for permit to remove 19 trees. Mr. Paschalis and Ms. Lockhart will inspect.
- f) 457 Durie - dead ash tree opposite 457 Durie. O&R will remove.
- g) 1 Ruckman - trees heavily, unacceptably trimmed. Mr. Paschalis to contact Code Enforcement Officer Fuchs.
- i) Borough seeking quotes for 2021 removal list.
- j) Mayor's newsletter submission for next month: cooling benefits of trees
- k) 2021 Fall tree planting. \$85,000 total. Much will go toward tree removals. DPW has been very helpful. Motion made by Ms. Lockhart to go out for quotes for up to 50 trees. Specs to go down to 1 - 1 1/2 caliper. Motion seconded by Councilman Devlin. Discussion on planting native trees. Closter has excellent tree species diversity, which is important.

## **VII. Liaison Reports**

- a) Governing body. 231-239 Herbert Ave (Reuten Park). ZB discussion for 2 hours. Little progress. Developer requested to bifurcate application; ZB denied request.
- b) Environmental Commission. Will host educational event at Buzzoni Park on 7/10/21 @ 3 pm.

## **VIII. Plans from Building Department. Review and comment**

- a. 54 Hickory Lane
- b. 61 Oak Street
- c. 6 Jason Woods Rd.

## **VII. Adjournment:**

