



Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 11, 2022

8:25 p.m.

[held remotely via Zoom]

1. Call to Order—Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Commission Members present:

Nils Abate, Chair

Todd Bradbury

Scott Devlin, Council Liaison

George Futterknecht

Miriam Lockhart, Env. Commission Liaison

George Paschalis

Daniel Serata

Commissioners absent:

Anthony Lupardi, Sr.

Tsun Tam

No members of the public were present.

3. Approval of Minutes

Following a motion by Mr. Paschalis and seconded by Mr. Devlin, the March 14, 2022 Minutes were unanimously approved with the following amendments:

- a) Arbor Day school tree plantings: Mr. Bradbury requested the Chairman ask the Schools if they could take on responsibility for watering the trees.

4. Correspondence

No correspondence

5. Old Business

a) NJUCF Tree Inventory Grant Status

The steering sub-committee received and reviewed four responses to the Borough's Request for Proposals. As all four exceeded the grant award, the Borough requested each vendor:

1. Amend their proposals based on the grant limit; and
2. Assume 4,000 trees are to be inventoried.

To date, two vendors have resubmitted their proposals. The deadline is April 18th. The Borough has until September 2023 to complete the inventory.

b) Arbor Day Poster Contest

Mr. Paschalis led a review of the 28 submissions to the contest. The Commission chose the following winners:

Hazel Zanardelli	K	First Place
Riley Watson	K	Honorable Mention
Bento Souza	1 st	First Place
Amber Fan	1 st	Honorable Mention
Karis Yoo	2 nd	First Place
Kaylee Kim	2 nd	Honorable Mention
David Chung	3 rd	First Place
Erin Lee	3 rd	Honorable Mention
Arina Smirnova	4 th	First Place
Jiwoo Park	4 th	Honorable Mention
Bailey Park	5 th	First Place
Emily Kim	7 th	First Place

Mr. Paschalis will notify the parents and schools, and contact the mayor to confirm invites should be sent to the winners and their parents for the April 27th Council Meeting.

c) Arbor Day Tree Plantings, April 29th

Trees have been purchased for the ceremonies at Tenakill (9:00 a.m.) and Hillside (10:00 a.m.) Schools.

d) Tree Preservation in Closter

Mr. Devlin reported on the second “Tree Summit” held on March 25th and attended by members of the Commission. Following a discussion on mitigation, the Commission agreed the cost for a replacement tree should be increased to \$850.

e) 12 Haring Street

The Commission approved a draft letter in response to the unauthorized removal of a tree in the Borough’s ROW. Mr. Paschalis will communicate same to the building department and Ms. Weatherly.

f) District 3 Street Tree Pruning

Commission members discussed communication and performance concerns related to the vendor.

6. New Business

- a) Ms. Lockhart advised that, after nearly five years, she will no longer be able to serve as Secretary. Commission members thanked her for her outstanding service.
- b) Chairman Abate reminded Commission members of the need to complete Annual Financial Disclosure Forms

- c) The mayor will be issuing an Arbor Day Proclamation at the April 13th Council meeting.
- d) Downtown Tree Replacement
In recent Borough meetings where the topic of downtown revitalization was discussed, Mr. Devlin voiced the need to include tree replacement—as discussed in the Commission’s March meeting—in any comprehensive plan.
- e) Mayor’s Newsletter
Mr. Paschalis will draft a submission to the newsletter that features the 2022 Arbor Day Poster Contest winners.
- f) Future Commission meetings
The Commission discussed continuing the meetings via Zoom or reverting to in-person meetings. The Commission elected to continue Zoom meetings, primarily because of the ability to share documents. The decision will be revisited again in July in advance of September’s meeting.
- g) Ruckman Park trees
Mr. Bradbury praised the vendor who recently planted the row of trees along Piermont Avenue for replanting a number a bit higher to avoid standing water.
- h) Closter Tree Canopy
Mr. Bradbury noted that, while not necessarily in the Commission’s purview, the Borough has enormous opportunities to regain tree canopy on Borough and School property. Ms. Lockhart noted that the Borough’s Land Use Boards and construction department are all concerned with canopy loss.
- i) Tree Stakes
Mr. Bradbury noted there is currently no need for any recent plantings to have tree stakes and asked that if any are noticed they be reported for removal to avoid future girdling of trees.

7. Liaison Reports

- a) Governing Body—Mr. Devlin reported that Mr. James Winters has been hired as Borough Administrator.

8. Meeting Adjournment 10:00 pm