

# THE HOBOKEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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DAWN ZIMMER  
 Mayor



Diana Davis, Chairwoman  
 Peter Bakarich, III, Commissioner  
 Matt Condon, Commissioner  
 Peter Cossio, Commissioner  
 Amy Sommer, Commissioner  
 Patrick Wherry, 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate

## Minutes of the February 8, 2016 Shade Tree Commission Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:02p.m.

The Open Public Meeting Act statement was read by the Commission Secretary.

### ROLL CALL:

<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u>	
Commissioner Peter Bakarich	ABSENT
Commissioner Matt Condon	✓
Commissioner Peter Cossio	Arrived after roll call ✓
Commissioner Amy Sommer	✓
Chairwoman Diana Davis	✓
1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate Patrick Wherry	✓

Also Present: Ken Misbrenner, friend of Matt Condon, a landscape architect and arborist who is considering joining the Commission. Christopher Brown, Designee for Environmental Services; and Daisy Amado, secretary for the commission.

### AGENDA

#### 1. Approval of the minutes of the January 11, 2016 commission meeting

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Commissioner Bakarich						✓
Commissioner Condon	✓		✓			
Commissioner Cossio						✓
Commissioner Sommer		✓	✓			
Chairwoman Davis			✓			
1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate, Patrick Wherry			✓			

#### 2. Shade Tree Commission 2016 Budget

Discussion ensued as to: the need to request more money in the budget; how the PSE&G money was spent; need to spend the money on maintenance every year, projects and general planting, continuing education, hazardous tree removal and Arbor Pro Database. Commission discussed the City's green initiative and how they should be promoting Shade Tree activity and meet community

forestry goals. Chairwoman will draft request and present to Director Pellegrini.

Discussion on removal of dead trees in front of private homes, home owners responsibility, and why is the City not enforcing this. Patrick Wherry mentioned the importance of educating homeowners and the possibility of providing them with a list of vendors who can assist, etc.

Chairwoman mentioned she called Trenton and confirmed we can apply for CSIP grant again. As soon as they have requirements finished they will send over and we will apply.

**3. Spring Tree Planting matters**

Commissioner Condon mentioned he retrieved all documents from Steve Fahmie. Chairwoman requested list of residents who signed up for street tree and would like the list before the next meeting of March 7<sup>th</sup>. Chairwoman will send the google link so Commissioners may access the site. Chris Brown will inquire as to the Commission possibly using the City's drop-box. Commissioner Sommer asked about permission slip.

**4. Hazardous Tree issues**

Discussed with 2016 Budget items. Chairwoman said we can use CSIP grant for this.

**5. Review and Recommendations on the following five projects:**

**901 Bloomfield**

Commissioner Sommer reviewed the plans and discussed the following recommendations:

- i) Tree pit guard should be 18" tall.
- ii) Tree pit guard should be three sided, open at street curb.
- iii) Move proposed tree most north on Bloomfield as it is over a proposed water service line and propose relocating this tree or water service line.
- iv) Provide one more additional tree.
- v) Indicate tree pit size and proposed species, small to medium size tree recommended (in min. 4'x 8' tree pit) due to overhead wires.

Commissioner Sommer will provide the updated list of approved trees to the Commission. Discussion about following up with Planning Board on the specific tree planting specifications/guidelines.

**Hoboken Cove Hudson Tea Building**

Commissioner Sommer reviewed the plans and discussed the following recommendations with the Commission:

- i) Do not plant woody shrubs and/or groundcover in street tree pits and away from root ball in larger planting area.
- ii) Sedge okay, but planted away from tree root ball.
- iii) Move proposed trees away from loading zone.
- iv) Existing trees should be protected during construction.
- v) Recommend replacing trees in grates with larger species, remove grates, and raise soil to grade.

**1101 Grand**

Commissioner Sommer reviewed the plans and discussed with the Commission the following recommendations:

- i) Northern most tree on Grand Street appears to be within 5’ of the gas service line. Relocate proposed tree, so it is more than 5’ away (less than 25’ spacing is acceptable for the proposed redbuds).
- ii) Enlarge length of tree pits to a minimum of 8’ long preferably 10’ TYP.
- iii) Redbuds acceptable for Grand Street because of existing overhead wires, but on Eleventh Street we should provide larger tree species from the Hoboken Shade Tree Commission list.
- iv) Provide tree pit guards, three sides.

**118–120 Madison**

Commissioner Sommer reviewed the plans and discussed the following recommendations with the Commission:

- i) Wooden stakes needed at installation.
- ii) No sand trench below pit.
- iii) Use shredded bark mulch rather than traprock screenings.
- iv) Enlarge tree pit to minimum 4’ x 8’.
- v) Do not provide raised curb around tree pit, tree pit guard should be flush with the surrounding sidewalk.
- vi) Provide three sided tree guards.

**259 First Street**

Commissioner Sommer reviewed these last set of plans and discussed the following recommendations with the Commission:

- i) Provide pit tree guards.
- ii) Prefer additional tree instead of bile racks, unless utility conflict.
- iii) Protect existing tree on First Street during construction.

**Motion was made to approve the projects for: 901 Bloomfield; Hoboken Cove Hudson Tea Building; 1101 Grand; 118-120 Madison; and 259 First Street with the listed recommendations for each.**

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Commissioner Bakarich						✓
Commissioner Condon			✓			
Commissioner Cossio	✓		✓			
Commissioner Sommer			✓			
Chairwoman Davis			✓			
1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate, Patrick Wherry		✓	✓			

**6. Resolution from the Planning Board on 502-510 Madison Street and applicant's addition of ten additional trees.**

Discussion as to Planning Board should ask Shade Tree Commission for recommendations. Chairwoman Davis will discuss this further with Director Pellegrini

**7. Public Comments (limited to five minutes per person).**

No one appeared from the public.

**8. New Business.**

Washington Street plans were discussed. Chairwoman will write a letter to City Council to include Commissioner Sommer's comments as to plans not showing any trees. We have large trees on Washington and no trees are shown on any of the plans. Commission should request more detail since these are our trees and should be protected.

**Motion to close the meeting.**

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Commissioner Bakarich						✓
Commissioner Condon	✓		✓			
Commissioner Cossio			✓			
Commissioner Sommer			✓			
Chairwoman Davis		✓	✓			
1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate, Patrick Wherry			✓			

**Meeting concluded at 8:43pm.**

*(Minutes taken/submitted by D. Amado)*