

# THE HOBOKEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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DAWN ZIMMER  
Mayor



James J. Tricarico, Chairman  
Peter Bakarich, III, Commissioner  
Matt Condon, Commissioner  
Peter Cossio, Commissioner  
Diana Davis, Commissioner  
Amy Sommer, 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate

## Minutes of the June 8, 2015 Shade Tree Commission Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7:03 p.m.

### ROLL CALL:

<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u>	
Chairman James Tricarico	✓
Commissioner Peter Bakarich	✓
Commissioner Matt Condon	ABSENT
Commissioner Peter Cossio	✓
Commissioner Diana Davis	✓
1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate, Amy Sommer	✓

Also Present: Christopher Brown, Designee for Environmental Services; Steve Fahmie, Volunteer; and Daisy Amado, secretary.

### AGENDA:

1. Barbato Contract – Chris Brown advised the Commission that a letter was sent to Barbato and as of June 1<sup>st</sup> no response was received; therefore no payment will be made. Per Chris, Arborist going out on June 10<sup>th</sup> and will have a report by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Commission asked: 1.) how long before we can hire a new contractor; 2.) do we need to go through another bid process; 3.) name of arborist; 4.) once arborist report is received how long before trees are removed; and 5.) is the City planning on filing suit against Barbato.

Steve Fahmie mentioned two priorities: cut trees and autumn planting season. Who will handle this?

Chairman Tricarico stated and asked to note in the minutes that he needs the Director at the meetings.

Chairman asked for roll call to be called as a quorum was reached.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** for the May 11, 2015 meeting was postponed to the next meeting as none of the Commissioners received same for review.

2. Citizen Outreach - Commissioner Cossio mentioned he sent an email to Director Pellegrini and David Calamoneri in connection to cut holes and no trees planted with a few dangerous ones and he has received no response. Asked if City can patch so this is not a danger and we should not wait until the Fall.
3. Paul Cowie Training Event – Commissioner Davis stated that the training was successful. She also advised that she received the letter from Mr. Cowie, she will forward to Trenton and we will be up to date on liability.
4. TD Bank – Per Chris Brown, Leo has an idea of how to spend the money on two open invoices: 1.) Greater Newark Conservancy \$11,300 and 2.) Reliable Tree Services for 11 dead trees \$4,450. Chris will ask Leo about the match. Chairman mentioned there is a huge tree stump on 47 Newark Street in front of the TD Bank which needs to be removed.
5. CSIP Grant – Hazardous Tree Pruning Grant – Chairman advised \$20,000 with \$10,000 match. Chris Brown advised Leo wants to spend on parks. Discussed ensued among the Commission as to why would \$30,000 of grant money be used to prune trees in the park, even though we are responsible for all trees, and does the City have a separate budget for parks?

Commissioner Davis moved to use the CSIP grant to prune hazardous trees instead of park trees.

COMMISSIONER	Move	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Chairman Tricarico			✓			
Commissioner Bakarich						NOT SWORN-IN CANNOT VOTE
Commissioner Condon						ABSENT
Commissioner Cossio		✓	✓			
Commissioner Davis	✓		✓			

6. Green Communities Grant– Chris Brown advised \$3,000 of grant approved and Director Pellegrini signed grant agreement. Commissioner Davis mentioned this is going on for a year now and back in November 2014 should have been on books. Per Chris Brown, he confirmed with the state that the grant was issued but they are behind on processing reimbursements.
7. Washington Street Project - Chris Brown advised per Director Pellegrini, twice a week watering is taking place. Discussed ensued among the Commission as to process of approving tree pits and how to obtain approval from Zoning Board. Commissioner Davis suggested the Commission write a letter to the Chair of the Planning and Zoning Boards stating exactly what we need to do and copy all members of those two boards. Chairman asked if Commissioner Davis can prepare letter for the Commission. Steve Fahmie will look up the Commission Ordinance on this.

8. Washington Street Project - Poster Boards: Chairman advised that Commissioner Condon has made schematics and we blew it up on large poster boards it was real helpful. Would like to have two made one for each Street, Blocks 3 and 4.

Quotes for Vendors – Chris Brown advised we cannot use vendors as the previous one exceeded threshold.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Welcome new Commissioners, Peter Bakarich and Amy Sommer. Chairman invited both to tell the Commission about themselves. Amy stated next week will make two years that she lives in Hoboken and that she is a licensed landscape architect and works in New York. Peter Bakarich stated he volunteered after he had a tree planted on his property in 2013.

- Formulation of a game plan to perform training and raising prunes on approximately 150 trees planted by the Shade Tree Commission between 2010 and 2013. Steve Fahmie stated he and Commissioner Cossio inspected all trees planted since 2010 and have a good handle on which trees need to be pruned. Total of about 130 trees need to be pruned and he has a list. It would probably take about ten minutes per tree. If Director Pellegrini could allocate manpower to go out with a Commissioner and prune. Discussion among Commission as to: preferring to go down a list and pruning 20 of them better than coordinating one of us with one of them. Commissioner Davis advised that James Davis would be eager to help as well as the gentleman that is Head of Parks. Commission discussed possibly setting this up for a Saturday when the guys are free, we would need their truck.

Pruning equipment needed. We should price out \$500/\$600 of sheers. Does the Commission purchase and get reimbursed? Need hand prunes, sheers, pole saws, hand saws approximately six of each. Commission asked when can Leo's staff be trained by Paul Cowie to help prune 150 trees. Chris Brown will get dates and give to Director Pellegrini.

- Web Based Items – Per Chairman, online app forms Steve has where you can sign up to be a tree keeper, etc., all automated. Steve Fahmie advised he has not updated since January but will take a look at it.

- 816 Park Ave – Per Chairman, someone called City asking if tree marked with a red X at this location is to be removed. Peter Bakarich stated he would take a photo of it and circulate to Commission.

- 99 Adams – wrong trees planted in incorrect size tree pits after given clear directions by Commission. Per Commissioner Cossio, told him he wants green bags. Discussion as to having the authority to fine people; City Inspector; and we can ask him to remove it. Also discussed issue as to enforcement and having Planning/Zoning Boards give the Commission plans.

- St Ann's Church – tree on 7<sup>th</sup> Street looks perfectly healthy; cannot remove it; needs to be pruned.

Chairman made a motion to instruct St. Ann’s church to prune and follow guidelines in our specs regarding the tree on 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

COMMISSIONER	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Chairman Tricarico	✓		✓			
Commissioner Bakarich						NOT SWORN-IN CANNOT VOTE
Commissioner Condon						ABSENT
Commissioner Cossio			✓			
Commissioner Davis		✓	✓			

- R. Leopold – status on community and urban forestry, NJDEP. Chairman needs status on this. Commissioner Davis mentioned she needs previous plans.
- Website updating –Commissioner Davis asked if information can be updated on the website. Commissioner Cossio advised to send to Juan Melli the Communications Manager for the City of Hoboken who updates the website.
- Clinton and 15<sup>th</sup> Street – Commissioner Davis mentioned that there is a PSE&G substation at this location in front of the storage place and that a whole row of pine trees have been chopped down. She would like to know who removed the six trees in front of storage store and the row of pine trees. Chairman advised he would follow-up with PSE&G.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Ms. Holly Fedeyko from Adams Street appeared before the Commission to discuss vacancy of a tree at 84 Adams and there is a square at the location. She is interested in adopting a tree. Commissioner Cossio asked if Ms. Fedeyko is interested in having the Commission plant a tree for her. Ms. Fedeyko said she would definitely contribute and is interested. Commission advised her to fill out an application online.

Multi-Service Center Sidewalk Rehabilitation – Chris Brown showed the commission the plans. Commission asked: what are the actual sizes of the tree pits; and is there a PDF of the plan that may be forwarded to them.

The meeting concluded at 8:30p.m.