

## NEW HOPE BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes for June 16, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Gloria Broeker, Chairperson

Others present: Anita Maximo; Frank DeLuca; Robert Margadonna; Krayl Funch; Laurie McHugh, Council Liaison

The minutes for the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

Note: Robert and Krayl completed Tree Tenders training with PHS. All members of the Shade Tree Commission have completed this training.

### Old Business:

- Pending items:
  - A review of tree pits on Bridge Street between the river and canal confirmed that several pits are good candidates for porous pavement; will coordinate with Code Enforcement regarding sidewalk issues on 3 & 9 Bridge St. to potentially replace trees at the same time. **Update:** Sidewalk for the Bridge Street Project has been poured (on north side of the street opposite 3 & 9 Bridge St.); railing to be installed next. One tree (#92) was removed and will not be replaced due to site redesign. Sidewalk issues remain on the other side of street at 3 & 9; waiting for Zoning to initiate process of code enforcement.
  - Analysis of 2021 Street Tree species: Anita provided an analysis of street tree species that shows our current inventory is 49% native species and 51% non-native species. Overall, 12.5% of street trees are Norway maples and 6.9% callery pear. Both species are non-native and can be invasive.
  - Updates to *List of Approved Plants and Shade Trees* (June 2021). **Update:** Anita provided and reviewed updates to the *List*. New species were added to include more native species and species that can better tolerate climate changes for heat and drought. The new *List* will be available on the Borough web site.
  - Potential grant opportunities. **Update:** No update.

### New Business

- **Applications:** 160 N. Main Street, tree #1013, to be removed and replaced (Patty and Adolph Hearst). Certified arborist recommends removal. Request was approved.
- **Updated Tree Inventory:** letters to property owners. Five letters to be sent to property owners about trees with critical issues/hazards. Gloria requested Zoning to identify property owner at 60 Buttonwood next to 34 Chestnut Street.
- A review of street trees planned at the new construction at 157-169 North Main St. is warranted to ensure species diversification.
- Tree Canopy Percentage (i-Tree Canopy): SavATree provided Gloria the iTree app to determine the percentage of tree canopy coverage. Currently determined to be approximately 47 per cent. Bob suggested asking businesses to consider planting trees. Laurie recommended the Commission could create a program, and approach property owners to plant trees. Next steps are to finalize recommendations for future plantings sites. Laurie suggested providing Council with a budget that would cover the cost for planting and maintaining the trees. Orders for bare root trees need to be put in by August for planting in October. Gloria asked Laurie for a contact at New Hope Solebury High School to work with students to do tree plantings.
- Long-term plans for the STC:
  - Ideas for future plantings; bare root tree options; Bucks Beautiful / business partnering (blue stars on the GIS map for future plantings, tree species). Plan to take advantage of bare root tree ordering.
  - Establish a long-range street tree replacement plan, incorporating prudent risk management techniques and trending conditions noted in the 2020 tree inventory.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Next meeting: 7:00 pm on July 21, 2021