

**Haddonfield, NJ**  
**Shade Tree Commission (STC)**  
**Regularly Scheduled Meeting**  
**September 20, 2022**

Opening / Sunshine Law Reading

- STC Chair Scott McElhone opened the meeting with a reading of the “Sunshine Law” statement at 8:03 AM.
- Shade Tree Commissioners present were Ralph Ciallella, Deb Troiani, Ann Koelling, Jane Berkowitz, Bill Polise, and Allison Pescatore as well as DPW Foreman Bill Ober and Borough Commissioner Frank Troy.

Correspondence

- Liza Wojcik, 29 Centre St. STC denied approval of request to remove healthy sycamore due to clogging of gutters and cracked sidewalk. Ann recused herself from this decision.
- Angela Melzi, 18 N. Hinchman. Request for removal of a healthy tree due to surface roots is denied.

Community comment

- Tim Alles, 310 Centre St. STC grants permission for the removal of the tulip poplar tree on the park strip to accommodate sidewalk repair. Removal and stump grinding will be at the resident's expense. Three compensatory replacement trees approved by Bill Ober, LTE and STC will be planted on the private side of the sidewalk due to the grade of the park strip, and a bond will be held until trees are planted.
- Andy Williams, rep for Steve Mellul, 27 S. Hinchman. STC grants permission for removal of a pear tree at resident's expense. This tree is not on our approved list. Two compensatory trees approved by Bill Ober, LTE and STC will be planted in the park strip.

Construction

Private Construction

- Jobel Drive Subdivision.
  - 08/05 Jobel Drive Subcommittee Meeting (8:00AM scheduled start; 8:13AM actual start)
  - \* Attendees --- Scott McElhone, Deb Troiani, Jane Berkowitz, Ann Koelling, Ralph Ciallella, Alison Pescatore, Tavis Karrow
  - \* Discussion on logistics (Subcommittee Meeting vs. Special Meeting)
  - \* Discussion on 578 Jobel Drive (history of project and current observations/conclusions/requirements)
  - \* Motion to Vote on Required Actions of Applicant (Jane), Seconded (Ralph), and unanimous YES of all present STC Members
  - See attached agenda and approval.
- 304-310 Centre St. See community comment.
- 132 Avondale Avenue.
  - DPW was alerted to the unauthorized cutting of roots upon a Borough-owned shade tree. Based upon inspection and subsequent professional opinion of the Borough's Licensed Tree Expert (LTE), the cutting of the roots for this ~40" DBH Red Oak for installation of the retaining wall caused significant loss of root support.
  - In accordance with ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) best practices on tree risk assessment, the subject tree was categorized as hazardous having been assessed to have an imminent likelihood of failure (occurring in the near future), a high likelihood of impact of a target (people or property), and a severe consequence of failure (based on the large size of the tree).
  - After discussion and unanimous YES of all present STC Members a recommendation was delivered to the Construction Office for enforcement (removal & stump grinding at resident's expense and one compensatory tree per Section 56-9A of Borough code).

Public Construction

- Roads Program 2023. Commissioner Frank Troy reviewed the roads program schedule.

DPW Updates

- Contract removals are in progress. The majority of stumps and stalks will be removed by the end of the year.

Bids will be made for the remaining large ash.

- Borough crew will be back out on removals. Trimming is being done on the Wednesday (Zone 3) route.

Other

- October Shade Tree Federation Conference will be held in Cherry Hill.
- START(Shade Tree Approved Resident Tree) Program is being introduced.
- Cost-Share Removal Program: Money is allocated.
- Birchall Triangle Grand Planting - Dawn Redwood( Metasequoia) is proposed.
- Commemorative Tree Program: Minimum donation amount is under discussion due to rising costs.
- Species List: add Persian Ironwood(Perrotia persica) and remove Black Locust.

Close of Meeting

- **Meeting adjourned at 9:36AM.**

Submitted By: Deb Troiani

Attachments: STC - 2022 - 8 - Subcommittee Meeting (578 Jobel Drive)AGENDA, STC - Jobel Drive Subcommittee - Observations & Recs --- APPROVED

CC: Borough Commissioner Troy, Borough Administrator McCullough, Borough Clerk Bennett, STC Commissioners.

**Haddonfield Shade Tree Commission  
Jobel Drive Subcommittee  
Observations, Conclusions, and Required Actions**

**1. Review of the *As-Built Tree Replacement Plan* (dated 07/29/22) for 578 Jobel Drive**

Observations

1. Tree ID #5B mislabeled as a Cherry but is a Sweet Gum.
2. Tree ID #10 mislabeled as an Ash but is a Black Walnut.
3. Tree ID #11 was to be retained but was removed (Maple) and has the equivalency of one (1) compensatory tree in accordance with Borough Code Section 135-84-C(3.1).

Conclusions

- Based on a thorough site inspection and a comprehensive review of the documentation provided, and except for Items #1-3 cited above, the Haddonfield Shade Tree Commission (STC) is comfortable with the contents & accuracy of the current *As-Built Tree Replacement Plan* compared to the original *Approved Tree Removal Plan*.

Required Actions (of Applicant)

- An updated *As-Built Tree Replacement Plan* must be submitted to the Haddonfield Construction Office to correct for Observations #1-3 cited above. The correction of #1 and #2 is critical for consistency reasons while the correction of #3 results in an additional compensatory tree to the total Replacement Tree figure (to 67 from 66 listed on the Plan dated 07/29/22).

**2. Site Inspection for 578 Jobel Drive (on 07/29/22)**

Observations

1. Noted were four (4) Amelanchier Laveis (AL), 3 located in the back corner of the property and 1 near the front driveway, that are in poor condition. Borough Code Section 135-84-C(3.1)(c) states that all trees shall be guaranteed for a minimum of one year from the time of planting by the applicant against death and disease.
2. Several of the replacement trees were planted several inches too low in the ground with the “root flare” buried below industry standards. This can cause premature death of trees from stem girdling roots, soil girdling of the trunk, and poor root growth or even root death. The below link to the STC webpage for more details and an explanatory diagram.

<http://www.haddonfieldnj.org/BoardsCommissions/How%20to%20Plant%20a%20New%20Tree.pdf>

Conclusions

- Based on this thorough site visit and review of the provided documentation, and except for Items #1-2 cited above, the Haddonfield STC is comfortable with the planting conditions and the accuracy of the *As-Built Tree Replacement Plan* (which has 22 Replacement Trees located on this property).

Required Actions (of Applicant)

- Relative to #1 above, and in accordance with Borough Code Section 135-84-C(3.1)(c), Applicant provide to the homeowner the date of planting of these four (4) specific Amelanchier Laveis and the warranty documentation so homeowner is aware of the both the timeline to request a replacement and who the responsibility party is to request such a replacement.
- Relative to #2 above, the extra soil to uncover the “root flare” must be removed by the Applicant’s landscaper to remediate the planting issue. This will ensure long term survivability of the impacted replacement trees for the homeowner.