

MINUTES - ASBURY PARK ENVIRONMENTAL SHADE TREE  
COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, September 21, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER, 7PM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS -  
Chairman Pivinski calls the meeting to order. With Secretary  
Garrett Giberson absent, Jim Henry is asked to read the Open Public  
Meetings Statement. Statement read.

2. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Nancy Sabino, Jim Henry, Gerald List, Tom Pivinski,  
Ellen Gaynor, Tom Kulesa, Gabriella Cuccinota

ABSENT; Garrett Giberson, Russell Lewis, Amy Quinn,  
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Nancy Fasano, Joyce Grant

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES-  
April 2021 Minutes approved by Jerry List, seconded by Ellen Gaynor

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Tom Kulesa reported that 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Garden and Civil War  
garden irrigation installed, will make a difference w/maple,  
magnolias and tree hydrangeas.

B. Art Robrecht Dune Garden: Tom reported that the  
Sesquicentennial group getting back to us, need to do before  
autumn, Eileen Chapman to get a plaque

C. Remember Me trees – Tom Kulesa said we are up to 60 planted,  
thanks to DPW and good planting, not leaning. Finished for this  
season, not in spring, summers too hot to keep watered. Tom K.  
wondered if it would be possible on the Friends of the ESTC  
Facebook site to list all those for whom the trees were planted  
since each comes with a personal story. Need someone to set up  
the page for that idea.

D. Community Farm report by Nancy Fason was read into the  
minutes by Nancy Sabino and attached at the end of these

minutes. Farm has produced 200 more pounds than last year to date. The Friends of the ESTC has underwritten all the buying of supplies for the Community Farm and Ellen commended Nancy for all her fantastic work this season.

E. Rain Garden – DPW will be skimming all the old growth off the Rain Garden on Main again and October will be planting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. NJ Tree Federation Meeting will take place in Cherry Hill on October 21st and will be attended by Tom Pivinski, Robert Bianchini, and Jim Henry, Nancy S. and Ellen.

B. Make the Polluters Pay is a resolution that we, at the ESTC, have voted to be in favor of when it is brought up to the council.

C. TD Bank grant Tree Planting of 20 trees and 30 shrubs is slated for Wednesday, Sept. 22, at the Lumley Apts. DPW has removed the cement in places and in conjunction with Lisa and the Tree Federation we hope to plant everything tomorrow. All hands ondeck for this project spearheaded by Russell Lewis.

D. Green Day will take place on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> in Springwood Park, we have been asked by the city to set up a table, Tom P. is taking offers to man the table, from 11am – 4pm.

Att:

September 21,2021

ESTC Committee Report on Community Farm

Nancy Fasano, Manager [bnggrand2@gmail.com](mailto:bnggrand2@gmail.com)

To date, the farm has distributed 1831.75pounds of food to the Asbury Park community. We expect to continue distributions for 6 more weeks until Oct 30.

We had a 2021 goal of 2021 pounds and we should be able to achieve that goal. We can't take credit for growing all these pounds as 289 pounds of apples and pears were donated from the Fasano garden in

upstate, NY, 49 pounds were donated by the Rutgers Master Garden PAR garden in Freehold and 34 pounds of peaches were purchased with money from community donations. That brings the total grown at the ESTC Community Farm to 1459 pounds. (Season total for 2019 =1303 pounds, 2020 =1639 pounds.)

We have donated excess vegetables to The Center 3 times. We have received \$71.30 in community donations and on 2 different weeks we were given donations of fresh baked Organic bread from a bakery in Spring Lake. (The bread weight was not included in the poundage.)

From donations, we have purchased 30 pumpkins which the team will paint and distribute to guests starting Oct 2. We have also given away some garden books and houseplants. All produce is distributed in reusable donated bags.

On average, we have 25-30 guests each week. Of these, 50% are weekly returnees, 25% are occasional returnees and 25% are new each week. Each guest is sharing the produce with their family. So, we are probably helping 60-90 people each week obtain healthy local produce.

A volunteer is in the garden every day of the week for an hour of harvesting, watering and general plant care. On Saturday mornings, we average 6 volunteers for 3-4 hours. We schedule additional work sessions as required throughout the season. Soon we will be preparing the beds for winter and planting garlic.

Early in the season we had problems with break-ins and trash which were addressed by conversations with Amy Quinn, DPW and AP police.

The opening of the AP train station building helped a lot, but we still have considerable trash and human potty use between the City Hall and garden fence. The rabbit who plagued us last season has been moved to a grassy field. We have not sustained much insect or virus damage. Like many other gardens in Asbury Park, the squirrels have been enjoying fresh tomato lunches.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS, motion by Jim Henry to adjourn, 2nd by Ellen Gaynor. Vote: All YES. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.