



Township of Teaneck

Shade Tree Advisory Board (STAB) 2023 Annual Report



Members of the 2023 Shade Tree Advisory Board

Co-chairs: Nancy Cochrane and Anna Kurz
 Members: Zina Barrera; Debbie Bejar; Debbie Eliyahu; Wendy Kelly; Roby Langert; David Strait.
 Michael Sermabekian - Department of Public Works liaison
 Peer Goldman - Environmental Commission liaison
 Mayor Michael Pagan - Council liaison

Because STAB works so closely with Teaneck's Department of Public Works, STAB acknowledges that much of STAB's accomplishments consist of DPW accomplishments (Thank you DPW.)

Two meetings in 2023 never took place for lack of a quorum.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ❖ STAB's new EC liaison (Environmental Commission) is Peter Goldman, also a member of the Greenway.
- ❖ STAB gained three members: Debbie Bejar, Debbie Eliyahu, David Strait. The Board is now complete.

❖ CEUs (Continuing Education Units)

Michael S. reported that Teaneck has an ample amount from his LTE course; and Wendy and Anna had a total of 11.

❖ CFMP

(Community Forestry Master Plan) was completed and submitted by Michael Sermabekian well ahead of the February 2024 deadline. Now, after several years of truancy, Teaneck is back in good standing with Tree City. *(See accreditation at lower left of page.)*

❖ The \$10,000 resiliency grant

from NJ DEP was used for a UTC (Urban

Tree Canopy) study. Andrew Ullman, ISA certified arborist, member of the Davey Tree Company attended the April meeting to explain the advantages of a UTC study and recommended ("more bang for your buck") it over a tree inventory, which would cover a only small fraction of the township trees. The grant's study yielded data useful now and in the future and

Updated: 2/20/2024

2023 ACCREDITATION STATUS

Municipality: Teaneck Township County: Bergen NACEF Accredited: Yes

To receive and maintain accreditation, the local government must stay up to date with the following requirements: -

I. COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Round	Plan Status	Year Plan Approved	Most Recent Plan Expires Dec 31 of 2025
1	Approved	2001	
2	Approved	2006	
3	Approved	2011	
4	Approved	2017	

II. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

a: CORE Trained Community Representatives

Name	Type of Representative	Name	Type of Representative	Name	Type of Representative
Anna Kurz	Volunteer	Brian Kuttler	Municipal Employee	John Campbell	Municipal Employee
Luis Rodriguez	Municipal Employee	Michael Sermabekian	Municipal Employee	Nancy Cochrane	Volunteer
Wendy Heller	Volunteer	Zina Barrera	Volunteer		

b: Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

Course Participant	Course Title	CEU Credits	Course Participant	Course Title	CEU Credits
Anna Kurz	Webinar, ITree Academy Summer 2023	5	Wendy Heller Kelly	Webinar, ITree Academy Summer 2023	6

Total Number of Participants

Total Number of CEU Credits

Contact: NJ Urban and Community Forestry
 Communityforestry@dep.nj.gov



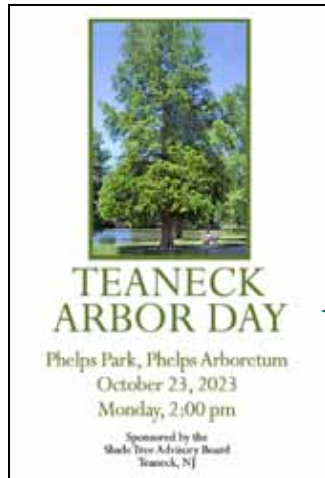
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Arbor Day Celebration, October 23, 2023

top left: planted baldcypress; top right: Arbor Day program cover; middle left: Council, EC, DPW and STAB members; middle right: Arbor Day Proclamation; bottom right: Nancy at the podium, Michael and Anna in the background



ought to be mentioned in future grant applications to show that the town fulfilled all the grant's requirements and is grant-worthy for additional grants.

❖ In April, DPW

removed a dead tree that contained a seven foot honey bee's nest; a professional bekeeper was called in to rescue the swarm before the tree was removed.

❖ Arbor Day Ceremony

(pictures at left) occurred on October 23, 2023. It was well attended and celebrated by planting a robust baldcypress, slightly larger than our usual Arbor Day tree size, in Phelp's Arboretum/Park.

❖ In April, STAB and DPW

joined Bergen Academies in Phelps Park to plant 15 bare-root redbuds and surround them with protective cages. Four redbuds were also planted and caged at the entrance of the Municipal/Library complex.



Bergen Academies students (Hansel in front row with STAB's Anna) and DPW's Lester and Frank,



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❖ **Tree plantings:**

DPW estimates that approximately 220 trees were planted in Teaneck in 2023. (86 in autumn: species include ginkgo, European hornbeam, linden, redbud, golden chain tree, weeping cherry, Japanese lilac, October glory maple)

❖ **All the Diversion Project PSE+G money**

was used for planting trees which were guaranteed for two years. The ten trees, various evergreens, along Windsor Road north of Route 4, are thriving (some more than others). Results for trees planted in upper Brett are good; in lower Brett, they are mixed.

❖ **Penn Avenue felled oaks**,

after consulting with residents, were replaced by yellow-woods, ginkgos and Japanese lilacs. DPW made the final choices.

❖ **National Night Out** in Votee Park. On

August 1, 2023, as part of STAB's mission to educate the public and advocate for trees, we shared a table with Environmental Commission members at National Night Out.



GOALS

Celebrate Arbor Day 2024

Cut suckers from street trees; at the same time using it as an opportunity to identify potential tree planting sites. Sucker cutting training to come from Michael S. (tku).

Remove Sycamore and red maple from municipal list of trees not needing a permit for removal..

Phelps Arboretum - resuscitate it to make it another Teaneck asset.

CEUs - get all STAB members CORE trained who are not yet trained; and have all members get at least one CEU. (Some members have already earned CEUs for 2024).

Follow-up of June 2023 discussion exploring the establishment of mini-forests in Teaneck à la Miyawaki's design.

Follow-up discussion - contribute to assessing and promulgating the new state mandated law regarding permitting and replacing trees cut down on private property (due to go into effect May 2024).

Continue to advocate for the planting of trees within the township to replace ageing-out trees and to make relevant Teaneck's designation as a Tree City. ■

L to R: Former STAB EC liaison David Spielman; present EC liaison Peter Golman; STAB co-chair Anna Kurz in front of hand lettered ID sign