

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 24, 2022**

The Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission met for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 7:00 PM in the Free Library of Springfield Township, located at 8900 Hawthorne Lane in Wyndmoor, PA.

Present at the meeting were: Ms. Corley, Ms. Breen, Mr. Bell, and Mr. Pryzblinski with Ms. Corley presiding as the Commission Chair. Assistant Twp. Manager Ford was also present. Ms. Ponce and Commissioner Maxwell were absent.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Corley and seconded by Ms. Breen and Mr. Bell to approve the minutes for the following meetings: January 27, 2022. **All in favor. Motion passes.**

Landscaping Plan Review

There were no submitted plans for the Commission to review.

New Business:

Sensory Garden at Cisco Park

Ms. Corley discussed the Shade Tree Commission's involvement regarding the Sensory Garden at Cisco Park which was installed by a family in 2001. Last summer, the Shade Tree Commission visited the site and noted that it had not been maintained and was overgrown. The Commission made the decision to adopt the garden and take up its maintenance and revitalization. Ms. Corley met with the Public Works Department to initiate the removal of diseased and overgrown species and enhance its structure. Ms. Corley requested funds of \$150 from the Environmental Advisory Commission to go towards the revitalization of the garden, which was generously approved at their monthly meeting on March 23rd. The Shade Tree Commission discussed the species of plants to go in the garden and other components to enhance its sensory nature.

Tree Tender Presentation

Mindy Lemoine from the Cheltenham Shade Tree Commission attended the meeting and gave a presentation regarding re-establishing a Tree Tender group in Springfield Township. Ms. Lemoine is the leader of the Cheltenham Tree Tenders' group of tree tenders and volunteers, which has planted over a hundred trees on public and private properties throughout Cheltenham. The Tree Tenders group partners with neighboring municipalities to pick up the trees, which they acquire at a subsidized cost in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS). Mr. Bell inquired as to who pays for the trees that the group plants. Ms. Lemoine said that community associations and homeowners pay for the trees on private property, and municipalities pay for the trees on public property. The trees are subsidized by PHS. Ms. Lemoine takes the initiative to reach out to these entities herself.

The Shade Tree Commission expressed interest in reaching out to Tree Tenders in Springfield to see if they are interested in spearheading a Tree Tenders group like the one led by Ms. Lemoine.

Old Business

ARBOR DAY 2022 (April 30, 2022)

The Commission discussed the Township’s annual Arbor Day celebration. The Commission ordered 20 trees to give away for free to Springfield residents on April 30th between 10am and 12pm. The trees to be given away include 5 of each species; “Cloud Nine” dogwood, sweetbay magnolia, sweet birch, and “autumn brilliance” serviceberry. The trees range between 2-3 gal. in size. Ms. Corley presented a draft flyer for the Tree Giveaway to the rest of the Commission members. Mr. Ford suggested moving the opening date for pre-registration to April 14th, after the Board of Commissioners meeting that Wednesday. Pre-registration will take place in person at the Township Administration Building or online, following a social media link. Trees are first come first serve.

Mr. Ford showed the members possible locations for the ceremonial planting by Mr. Pryzblinski of a larger tree in honor of Arbor Day. The Commission members chose a spot within the municipal complex, and plan on dedicating the ceremonial tree to former Commissioner Glenn Schaum, due to being the longest serving commissioner in the Township’s history and his involvement in the township campus project.

Members of the Free Library of Springfield Township reached out to the Commission to discuss possible collaboration for Arbor Day activities. The Shade Tree Commission decided that once the library formulates concrete plans and dates for “Tree Week,” they will decide on participation.

Township Update

Mr. Ford provided a brief update on Township activities relative to the Shade Tree Commission. He informed the Commission members that Mermaid Park in Wyndmoor is closed due to the Township undertaking the Mermaid Park Stream and Habitat Restoration Project. Cisco Park also has been undergoing some structural repair in its creek due to damage from Hurricane Ida last fall.

Adjournment

With no other business, a motion was raised and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Brandon Ford
Assistant Township Manager
Springfield Township, Montco.