

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA
MINUTES OF MEETING
June 23, 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, Mr. Bell, and Mr. Pryzblinski with Ms. Corley presiding as the Commission Chair. Assistant Twp. Manager Ford was also present. Ms. Ponce, Ms. Breen, and Commissioner Maxwell were absent. Also attending the meeting were Township residents Pat DePaul, Cecilia Dougherty, and Richard Metz.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Corley and seconded by Mr. Pryzblinski and Mr. Bell to approve the minutes for the following meetings: March 24, 2022. **All in favor. Motion passes.**

New Business:

Cecilia Dougherty

Ms. Dougherty presented to the Commission, concerned about the amount of trees that have been taken down in the Township. In 2021, straight line winds took down many trees, and Ms. Dougherty has noticed many community members also having trees removed in the Township. Many of the trees are poorly pruned as well. After discussing these concerns with neighbors, she discovered that some of them did not know there was a Springfield Shade Tree Commission. She asked the Commission to expand their outreach methods, particularly through the use of flyers and newsletters.

Mr. Bell discussed how the Shade Tree Commission has made great strides in outreach by participating in the 2021 Community Day and Arbor Day by giving away free trees. Ms. Corley also added the Commission's discussion with a local Girl Scout troop on the importance of trees and a news article in the Newsletter about the Tree City program. The Shade Tree Commission will continue to look for ways to reach out to the public.

Mr. Ford suggested that a Springfield Tree Tenders group (through the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society) be formed to work alongside the Shade Tree Commission to coordinate tree plantings and outreach. The group would consist of two Shade Tree members, Mr. Bell and Ms. Ponce, and Ms. Dougherty, all of which are registered tree tenders. Mr. Ford said he would reach out to Dana Dentice at PHS to achieve group registration.

Tree Canopy

The Commission analyzed a tree canopy report from 2012 done by Nina Safavi. Mr. Ford broke the canopy report down into a summarized version, which detailed that Ward 6 (N. Flourtown) had the lowest tree canopy in the Township at 27%. This was followed by

Ward 5 (E. Wyndmoor, 30%), Ward 3 (Oreland, 30%), Ward 4 (Erdenheim, 31%), Ward 1 (S. Flourtown, 31%), and Ward 2 (W. Wyndmoor, 44%). The overall tree canopy of Springfield is 32.5%, which is below the national average of 40%. Analyzing the tree canopy can help the Commission determine tree planting priority locations based on need.

Tree Donation Program

Mr. Ford and Ms. Corley presented an updated Tree Donation Program, which makes tree donation opportunities more generalized as opposed to strictly memorial-based. Residents can donate trees in memory/honor of a loved one or as a general donation to the Township and Commission. The Commission approved the updated form, and will be asking the Board of Commissioners for their approval at their July meeting.

Old Business

Arbor Day 2022 (April 30, 2022)

The Commission discussed another successful Arbor Day. They gave out 20 trees to pre-registered individuals. Preceding the tree giveaway, Mr. Pryzblinski performed a tree planting demonstration, and a Winter King Hawthorne tree was planted in honor of former Commissioner Glenn Schaum. The memorial tree is located by Hawthorne Lane in front of the Township Administration Building. For future tree giveaways, the Commission would like to give away 30 trees or more.

Adjournment

With no other business, a motion was raised and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Corley
Shade Tree Chair
Springfield Township, Montco.