

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
August 27, 2020

The Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission met in a regular monthly meeting at 7:00 PM. via the Zoom Virtual Conferencing Program. Present at the meeting were: Commission Chair Mrs. Breen, Commission Vice-Chair Ms. Ponce, Mr. Pryzblinski, and Mr. Bell. Commissioner liaison Mr. Lee and Staff liaison Mr. Ford were also present.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion made and the minutes for the July 23, 2020 meeting were approved.

Commissioner and Township Update

Msrs. Lee and Ford provided an update on Township operations to the members. Topics included the announced vacancy on the Commission due to the resignation of Ken Ferguson. A vacancy on the Library Board was also announced. Mr. Lee also shared that the Board of Commissioners entered into a grant agreement for the Mermaid Park Stream and Habitat Restoration Project and authorized the advertisement of bids for the Chiamonte Park ADA Improvement Project.

Old Business

HERITAGE TREE ORDINANCE

The topic of developing a tree protection ordinance was revisited by the members. The current protections offered by Whitmarsh Township were suggested as a viable model to work from for Springfield. The issue of not being overly burdensome on residents and businesses and the protection of private property rights was raised. The Commission motioned to table the discussion until September with Chair Ms. Breen suggesting that all members review the Whitmarsh Ordinance prior to next month's meeting.

VIRTUAL ARBOR DAY

Mr. Ford reminded the Commission that although the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City Program waived the in-person tree-related event requirement, the Township is still required to maintain prior year's expenditures on tree maintenance. Additionally, Mr. Ford informed the Commission that the Foundation had encouraged all tree organizations to conduct virtual events.

In lieu of a formal in-person event, the Commission decided to host an Arbor Day Tree Poster Contest for local youth. The idea would be to give younger residents a non-virtual activity and creative outlet to showcase why trees are important to our community. Residents will be directed to submit their posters to the Administration building. Mr. Ford will connect with the Library to see if the posters could be put up for display.

New Business

MEMORIAL TREE REQUEST

Mr. Ford shared with the Commission that the Township Parks & Recreation Department received a request from a resident to donate a tree in memory of a loved one. The Dept.

wanted to connect with the Commission to obtain a tree recommendation as well as get their thoughts about a suitable located at Bysher Field (the resident's preferred location). Several Commission members then expressed an interest in meeting with the resident to discuss tree species and locations. Township staff will reach out to the resident to coordinate a meeting.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Ford
Assistant to the Manager