

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
July 22, 2021

The Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission met in a regular monthly meeting at 7:00 PM. in the Springfield Township Administration Building. Present at the meeting were Shade Tree members Ms. Corley, Mr. Bell, Ms. Ponce, and Ms. Breen. Staff Liaison and Assistant Twp. Manager Mr. Ford was also present.

Commission members Mr. Pryzblinski and Board of Commissioners liaison Mr. Lee were absent.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the following meetings:

- June 24, 2021

All in favor. Motion passes.

Landscaping Plan Review

380-402 HAWS LANE

Mr. Ford provided an update regarding two new informal and unofficial concept renderings of a tentatively proposed 40-unit townhouse development project in the Institutional Zoning District situated at 380-402 Haws Lane in Erdenheim. Background information pertaining to the current townhouse concept as well as the previously approved, 107 bed assisted living facility proposal that is still capable of being implanted were discussed. The two plans reduce the number of units from 40 to 35-36 with one plan removing the units furthest from Haws Lane in order to preserve more woodlands. The other plan reduces the number of units by spreading the units throughout the entirety of the property. While this option would decrease the density along the Haws Lane frontage, most of the woodlands in the rear of the property would need to be removed.

Several Commission members asked if the new Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) of which the Shade Tree Commission revised the landscaping/tree protection section would be applicable for this project. Mr. Ford explained that the new SALDO would likely NOT be applicable for this project since the Shade Tree Commissions landscaping section recommendations are part of a larger rewrite of the entire SALDO by the Planning Commission and the Planning Commission is still working on rewriting other sections of the SALDO. Mr. Ford also pointed out that there are advertising and public hearing requirements after a vote by the Board of Commissioners that would delay the enactment of the new SALDO.

Since no formal proposal has been submitted, no action was taken. The discussion was intended to inform and educate the members about the two new concept plans for this upcoming project.

Old Business

ARBOR DAY 2021

The Commission discussed the possibility of hosting an Arbor Day event in the fall of 2021. Ms. Corley and Mr. Ford contacted Primex to get the availability of trees in late Sept/early Oct. as well as the organizers of Community Day at Cisco Park about the a joint event. Responses from both are expected before the next meeting.

SENSORY GARDEN

Prior to the meeting, Ms. Corley, Mr. Bell, and Ms. Breen visited the Sensory Garden at Cisco Park to assess the potential of taking over ownership and maintenance responsibilities of the Garden. The Commission members reported that the garden was in dire need of maintenance and the needs exceeded the available time and capabilities of the Commission. A suggestion was made to ask Township grounds crew to examine the garden or to possibly engage the Friends of Hillcrest Pond, the organization that installed the garden, to take over/renew their maintenance responsibilities.

New Business

MERMAID PARK PROJECT

Ms. Ponce asked when the Mermaid Park Project would be discussed again by the Commission. Mr. Ford informed the group that the Shade Tree Commission discussed the project previously at their May 27 meeting and via email. The project has been submitted for review to the PA Department of Environmental Protection for a General Permit since it will impact a waterway. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2022.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Ford
Assistant Township Manager