

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 27, 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, Ms. Ponce, Mr. Bell, and Mr. Pryzblinski with Ms. Corley presiding as the Commission Chair. Assistant Twp. Manager Ford and Commissioner Maxwell were also present.

Election of 2022 Commission Officers

A motion was made by Mr. Bell and seconded by Ms. Breen to nominate and elect Ms. Corley as the 2022 Commission Chair. **All in favor. Motion passes.**

A motion was made by Mr. Pryzblinski and seconded by Ms. Corley to nominate and elect Ms. Ponce as the 2022 Vice-Chair. **All in favor. Motion passes.**

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Corley and seconded by Ms. Breen to approve the minutes for the following meetings: October 28, 2021 **All in favor. Motion passes.**

Landscaping Plan Review

There were no submitted plans for the Commission to review.

Old Business

There was no old business for the Commission to discuss.

New Business

ARBOR DAY 2022 (April 30, 2022)

The Commission discussed the initial planning for the Township's annual Arbor Day celebration. Members agreed on targeting thirty (30) trees to give away and that larger trees (5 gal or larger) would be preferable to give out on Arbor Day. The Commission gave away thirty (30) smaller caliber trees (2-3 gal) this past October at Community Day. The Commission also expressed a desire to return to having an in-person event at the Township Campus.

He remarked that in years past, parents would take their kids to the library and then enjoy the Arbor Day educational events. Other potential partners include Oreland Fire Company (and the other fire companies), the EAC, shade tree commissioners from neighboring communities, and Oak Lane Maple (their founder attended the Oct. 2021 commission meeting and expressed an interest in sharing information about the usefulness of maple trees).

The topic of whether or not the official Township Tree, which will serve as the focus of a tree planting and maintenance demonstration by Mr. Pryzblinski, should be dedicated. The suggestion was made by members of the Commission to consider former Commissioner Glenn Schaum due to being the longest serving commissioner in the Township's history and his involvement in the township campus project.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Ms. Corley shared an email from the Cheltenham Shade Tree Commission expressing their interest in collaborating with Springfield in the revitalization of a local, volunteer Tree Tenders group (Tree Tenders is an education program offered by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society [PHS] to train volunteers on proper tree maintenance and care).

Mr. Bell and Ms. Ponce, both tree tenders who attended the program, shared their support for the idea. They argued that having a dedicated group of local volunteers knowledgeable in proper tree care and maintenance could be beneficial to offset the workload of parks and recreation and public works departments. Mr. Bell continued by saying that a tree tenders group could assist with Arbor Day and routine park maintenance. Commissioner Maxwell, also a tree tender, shared his experiences with working with tree tenders in Conshohocken.

Given that the winter tree tenders course started in mid-Jan. 2022, the Commission decided to wait until the next program offering is available and encourage Springfield residents to sign up (at a cost). Ms. Corley offered to invite representatives from the Cheltenham Shade Tree Commission to attend the February meeting and share their experiences.

Township Update

Mssrs. Maxwell and Ford provided a brief update on Township activities relative to the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Maxwell explained that he would be serving as the new Commissioner Liaison to Shade Tree and informed the group that Commissioner Graham was elected Board President and Commissioner Lee was elected Vice-President at the Jan. reorganization meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Adjournment

With no other business, a motion was raised and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

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

Public Park Site Visit - 10/15/2021 Tom

Overview: No visit to Mermaid or Cisco Park

1. Veterans Park - Traymore Ave
 - a. No surviving Shade Trees.
 - b. Ground possibly being rocky and filled - test digs recommended prior to plantings but room to do so.
 - c. Veterans along old hardware fence line: trees (maples) are in excellent condition
 - d. Room for more by parking areas, perhaps one to three large trees
2. Laurel Beech and Township Rec Center
 - a. Laurel Beech in excellent condition- Dawn redwoods along Robertson fence line are beautiful examples
 - b. Separation between fields - Shade Tree plantings in superb condition
 - c. Much room for future plantings throughout
 - d. Entrance on Willow Grove Ave should be marked and relandscaped with trees trimmed or replaced - buildings of old church and parking area make a bad presentation.
 - e. Mermaid Lane side needs rework - remove Redbuds from White Oak mound
 - f. Clear out parking lot mound and plant tree or trees
3. Wyndhill
 - a. Tree allee doing well- recovering (3 each) from early base damage from mowers/weed wackers
 - b. Last three on the left are in poor condition due to neighbors tree overhanging and interfering growth. This neighbor was a problem earlier in the project with debris encroaching on property
 - c. Trees by tennis court (3 maples) doing very well, however, memorial dogwoods planted too close and two are being shut out by the large maples. A site visit by members is recommended to determine a solution before the dogwoods are stunted too greatly and health suffers more
 - d. Perhaps room along fenceline for a couple more trees, but site is dense, if open space is preferred
4. Bysher Ave Fields
 - a. Lots of room for growth.
 - b. Commissioner Wilson's tree project along Bysher Ave growing wonderful and all in excellent shape
5. Fulginiti Park
 - a. Two small specimen trees in bad shape
 - b. Memorial tree is fine
 - c. Plenty of space for more trees, priority site for the future (bald cypress good for flooding)
6. Oreland Little League
 - a. All is well but planted out - no room
7. Sandy Run Park
 - a. A big hot mess - 4 dead trees
 - b. Test digs recommended
 - c. Grass overgrown
 - d. Meadow should be seeded with wildflowers
 - e. Tree pits along parking area - future path through woods