

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP - SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 19, 2018

Attendees: Jerome Ocker, Ann Marchino, Susan Ridgeway, Bob Dempsey, Bill Schutter, Tina Garzillo

Meeting Called to Order: 7:09 pm

OLD BUSINESS

1. Bob White Park Rotary Trees
 - a. STC reports that 8 trees are declining, there is Mile-a-Minute vine all over, and some trees need trunk protection.
2. Ash Tree Management Plan for Valley Forge Trail.
 - a. The word has been announced to the public to sign up for planting. Ann will draft a piece on the reforestation for Twp Lines.
 - b. New Information Signs are posted at the trail head.
 - c. The logging contractor is doing the work as expected.
 - d. We need a comprehensive planting and management schedule. When will they spray for invasive weeds again? When and where are the next planting projects?
 - e. The AmeriCorps volunteers weeded Aug. 20 and 21. They cut out multiflora rose. We should send them a thank you note.
3. Video Series.
 - a. Ann will prepare content for "10 best (or favorite) trees" w/in the next 2 months.
4. Beautification Awards.
 - a. Awards are presented on Thurs., Sept. 20. *(Note: Susan, Ann and Bob presented the awards along with Supervisor Garzillo.)*
5. Fall Planting.
 - a. Scheduled for 10-27-18 at Heuser along the Valley Forge Trail. It's the containerized riparian buffer planting.
 - b. Barley has the sign-up list.
 - c. Gerri Vattimo has 35 1 gal trees that are being donated through Montgomery County Conservation District on Sept 20. They will be planted at the Trout Creek riparian buffer planting. Bill will care for them in the meantime.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Stormwater Management Presentation.
 - a. Ann attended the Stormwater Presentation workshop on July 23. Their data collection methods were interesting. The report is online.

- b. The next public presentation is Sept. 24, from 6-9pm.
- 2. Stormwater Issue.
 - a. There is a stormwater problem at 2 Lafayette Rd. in Colonial Village. Trees were cut down at Warner and Lafayette Rds.
 - b. Is there anything that we can do about this?
- 3. Bob White Park Tree Care Day.
 - a. It will be Sat., Sept 29 from 9 am – noon. Wear long pants!
 - b. A non-profit called “One Tree Planted” will be bringing 6 trees and 15 volunteers!
 - c. We will be weeding around the trees, so they don’t get swallowed up. The trees need mulch, too.
- 4. Information on Insect Pests.
 - a. Tina requested that we provide some information for the public on insect pests. As an example, she shared that webworms attack trees with compound leaves, such as Black Walnut, and can produce 4 generations in a season.
 - b. Perhaps we can come up with video content on the following:
 - i. Spotted Lantern fly
 - ii. Emerald Ash Borer
 - iii. Webworms
 - c. Pests could be categorized as follows:
 - i. Chewing pests will defoliate trees, but not kill them
 - ii. Borers will kill a tree
 - iii. Sucking insects will secrete honeydew which is sticky, then sooty mold comes in
- 5. Heuser Park Conceptual Plan.
 - a. Tina has the conceptual plan, which may help us determine our reforestation strategy.
- 6. Community Garden update.
 - a. Jerome reported that the garden looks nice. They don’t have raised beds. They want to plant fruit trees to donate fresh fruit to a food bank.

PLAN REVIEWS

None

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1. Sept 20 – Beautification Awards.

2. Sept 29 – Bob White Park Work Day
3. Sept 29 – Water Clean Up Day at Walker Field w/ Ocean Blue volunteers
4. Oct 27 – Fall Planting Day at Heuser

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm. The next meeting is November 20, 2018 at 7:00 pm.