



Upper Merion Shade Tree and Beautification Commission **Meeting Minutes**

March 20, 2019

Opening

The regular meeting of the Upper Merion Shade Tree and Beautification Commission was called to order at 7:02 PM on March 20, 2019 in Upper Merion Township Building Valley Forge Room by Susan Ridgeway.

Present

Bob Dempsey, Ann Marchino, Susan Ridgeway (Chair); Barley Van Clief (Secretary); Mary Ann Ahearn (Guest); Don Herbert (Guest)

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Open Issues

- a) Earth Day at UM Township: At the Earth Day celebration on April 13, 2019, there will be a joint table of the UM Shade Tree Commission and UM Tree Tenders group. The table will be staffed by Susan Ridgeway with the possible addition of new Tree Tender Mike Vuoto. Jerome Ocker will lead a Tree ID walk. We will have information about the Spotted Lanternfly available along with scrape cards. Don Herbert will investigate the possibility of having a loop video of his award-winning SLF video at the table.
- b) Heuser Park Planting: We will be planting 15 bare root trees (1.5" caliper) along the Valley Forge West Trail on Saturday, April 27 starting at 9:00 AM. Volunteers will be recruited to help, including students from Villanova University. Flagger Force employees are also interested in tree planting, but possibly a different date. Gerri Vattimo has been coordinating volunteer

- recruitment. The Parks and Recreation Board is spearheading installation of 5 benches around which the trees will be planted.
- c) Resident Tree Orders: Five residents have ordered 7 trees, to be distributed from Nor-View Farms on April 27 at 9:00 AM. Bob Dempsey will coordinate the distribution that day.
 - d) Volunteer Work at Bob White: Mary Ann Ahearn will supervise volunteers from Specialty Answering Services for vine cutting at Bob White Park on April 27. Gerri Vattimo has been recruiting for this as well.
 - e) EAB Video: Don Herbert has released his video about the EAB project in Heuser Park, including interviews with the logging company, the Penn State Extension Urban Forester and members of the Shade Tree Commission. It's being broadcast over the closed-circuit TV station.
 - f) Best Trees Video: Ann Marchino and Don Herbert are arranging to complete this task. Ann will send Don the script, and they will schedule filming when the leaves are on the trees.
 - g) Grants:
 - The Shade Tree Commission and UM Tree Tenders have submitted grant requests to the Board of Community Assistance, each applying for half of the cost of invasive plant control at Heuser Park.
 - Barley has submitted a grant application to the Arbor Day Foundation for planting 25 trees on the embankment that faces the Heuser Park parking lot adjacent to the Trail Head.
 - The TreeVitalize Watersheds grant application will likely need to be amended, since professional services are being capped at \$1,000. The remainder of the fee for forester planting services will need to be listed as match. Barley is investigating.

New Business

- a. Beautification Awards: The group assigned sections of the Township to survey for nominations, due at the next meeting in May. Assignments were as follows: Sue (1) Bob (2) Jerome (3) Ann (4) and Barley (5). There will be 2 front yard awards from each section as well as 1 back yard and 1 distinguished tree. A notice soliciting nominations from residents will be submitted for the e-newsletter by mid-April.
- b. Joint Meeting with the Supervisors: This meeting is scheduled for April 11 at 7:00 PM. Sue, Barley and Bob will attend.
- c. Plans: Three plans were reviewed:
 - Henderson Road Investors
 - 383 Anderson Road
 - 455 W. Dekalb Pike

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM by Susan Ridgeway.. The next general meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, in the Upper Merion Township Building.

Minutes submitted by: Barley Van Clief

Approved by: Susan Ridgeway