

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP - SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 17, 2018

Attendees: Barley VanClief, Jerome Oker, Ann Marchino

Meeting Called to Order: 7:06 pm

OLD BUSINESS

1. Ash Tree Management Plan for Valley Forge Trail:
 - a. The Bid package for timber harvesting went out in December. So far, three companies have viewed it.
 - b. The Rotary Clubs have met their funding goal to plan 80 trees during their conference. The planting site is scheduled to be along the Valley Forge Trail. They have requested that a cherry tree be placed at the trail head, because they received funding from a club in Japan. If Heuser's ash trees aren't removed by the Earth Day planting date (Sun., Apr. 22), the trees will be planted in other locations in Heuser Park. The STC reviewed many other potential locations, but Heuser is the only area large enough for 80 trees. We cannot do multiple sites for this event.
 - c. The Township has received two grants for riparian buffer reforestation (DCNR & TreeVitalize). A third grant is being written for Equip funds also for reforestation. The grants serve as matches for each other.
2. BCA Grant Final Report. The report on how the money was used was submitted.
3. Video Series:
 - a. Barley worked with Don Herbert to make a video on proper mulching techniques.
 - b. Jerome will do a pruning video.
4. Bare Root Tree Distribution. There will be no public plantings in 2018. The STC is busy with other projects.
5. Tree Protection Ordinance Update. Ann gave a word document to Rob Loeper for review and consideration at the Township level.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Urban Forest Cloud training. Similar to iTree, set for 1-18-18 at the Greater Plymouth Community Center.
7. AmeriCorps Crew. Volunteers to work three days between March 19 – 28, dates to be confirmed. They will be doing manual invasive plant removal in the areas to receive riparian buffer plantings at Heuser Park. Bob Adams from TreeVitalize is coordinating this effort.
8. BCA Grant 2018. It is due March 15. We should use some of the money to hire labor for weed removal in support of the Ash removal project.

9. Reorganization. Barley will remain Chair, Ann will remain Secretary, Susan will be asked to serve as Vice Chair. Jerome regrets that he cannot serve as an officer this year.
10. Upper Merion Township Community Gardens. Jerome attended the kick-off meeting. Joe Brophy is well organized. The community Garden will be in the overflow parking area at Ross & Henderson Roads, at the base of the hill. They may expand upward, not into the parking area.
11. Earth Day at Township Building. It will be Sat., April 21. Jerome and Ann cannot attend.
12. Girl Scout Tree at Township Building. The troupe leader would like the girls to come back out to the Princess Diana Serviceberry tree and perform some maintenance on it. It will need weeding, mulching and stake removal. It will likely not need pruning. We may ask them to mulch a couple of nearby trees, too. (This should be organized around the tree's bloom time.)
13. Plan Reviews. This takes a lot of time, and keeps us late. We propose that plans be sent to Ann at least one week in advance. She will review them and bring notes/ observations to the meeting, where the group will make a final determination as to code compliance. Ann will let Jerome know the property addresses and he will review the existing conditions, which is often lacking on the plans. This advanced work will make our reviews go much faster and be more accurate.

PLAN REVIEWS

None

The next meeting is March 21, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:10 pm