

Upper Merion Shade Tree Commission Meeting

5-18-16

Attending: Jerome Ocker (Chair), Ann Marchino, Barley Van Clief.
Bill Schutter (Staff liaison)

Meeting called to order: 7:04PM

OLD BUSINESS

1. Report from Park & Recreation Committee meeting: Deferred
2. Report on Tree Care Work Day: With 3 volunteers, more than 15 trees were thoroughly pruned at Heuser Park. In addition, trees along the creek at Walker Park were "de-vined."
3. Earth Day Celebration: Because of heavy rain, the Earth Day celebration was cancelled. The Tree City USA award was not presented at that time, and will be rescheduled, probably for June. In addition, the planned mulching demonstration did not happen. Other plans for demonstrating proper mulching technique were discussed later in the meeting.
4. Bare Root Tree Planting: Residents received the 12 bare root trees that they had ordered. The STC helped to plant one tree in a case where the resident was unable due to health issues.
5. Tree ID Workshop: A small group of 6 attended the Tree Identification workshop that was held on March 23.
6. The Emerald Ash Borer treatment injections on 13 Township park trees have not yet been completed. Davey Tree Company is waiting until the trees fully leaf out. Ms. Van Clief reported that other municipalities have been able to contract with portable sawmill companies to remove ash trees for lumber. The PA DCNR Service Forester for this area may be able to do a preliminary evaluation to determine if this would be feasible for the Valley Forge Trail ash trees. Concern was raised about the potential for damage to the trail by large equipment, so that question will be addressed.
7. Grant to Board of Community Assistance: The Upper Merion Tree Tenders group has not received notice of the results of the grant applications. Ms. Van Clief will get in touch with Susan Ridgeway to check on status.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Beautification Awards: The group discussed the Beautification Award nominations submitted by the community, as well as properties they have vetted themselves. There are still several properties that need to be checked. One nomination proposed acknowledging the volunteers at McKaig Nature Education Center. The group decided that this group deserves recognition,

although it does not fall within the guidelines for the landscape Beautification Awards. Ms. Van Clief will investigate other possible ways for this to happen.

9. Tree Care Volunteer Day: On June 1, the STC will host a group of volunteers from the Collegeville campus of Glaxo Smith Kline, who will perform tree care work at Whitegate Park. Tasks will include re-staking, cultivating and mulching the new trees.
10. Tree Identification Labels: At the joint meeting with the Supervisors, Supervisor Kenney suggested that the STC consider labeling some trees with identification markers, as is common in arboreta. The group felt that this would be of benefit to the Township residents and will explore appropriate methods for labeling the trees without harming them. One suggestion was to apply for funding to the Board of Community Assistance in 2017.

OTHER BUSINESS

Other topics briefly discussed were:

- Ways to prevent string trimmer damage on park trees (the mowing is contracted out);
- Arrival of goats in Bob White Park, projected for June;
- Future need to review the tree related portions of the Township ordinance;
- Offer by Mr. Herbert to videotape some of the educational topics that the STC has offered or could offer, for posting on the cable channel. Each member will brainstorm topics and submit them to Mr. Ocker by June 15th.

PLAN REVIEW

Allenwood Road & DeKalb Pike (Chipotle and AT&T property)

The group reviewed a request to move trees within the site

Next meeting: July 20, 2016, 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.