

## **Upper Merion Shade Tree Commission Meeting**

3-16-16

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

Meeting called to order: 7:14 PM

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Report from Park & Recreation Committee meeting: Deferred
2. Grant to Board of Community Assistance: Two grant proposals were submitted to the BCA by the Upper Merion Tree Tenders. The grants requested funding to support professional tree care services for specific targeted trees in Township parks, all of which require equipment and expertise currently unavailable to the Township.
3. Eagle Scout: Mr. Ocker was able to secure the donation of a large Black Gum tree to assist Eric Sproul with his Eagle Scout project at Sweetbriar park. The tree will augment other work included in the project, such as bench and playground equipment repair.
4. Emerald Ash Borer: Since Tree-Age was used to treat the large ash trees at Executive Estates Park last spring and is good for two years, the EAB budget will be used to treat 13 significant trees at other parks this spring. These two programs will be alternated in the future. Evidence is mounting that EAB is unavoidable – counties surrounding Upper Merion have discovered the pest, and although no reports have been listed in Upper Merion, it is very likely here. Outward evidence does not appear until several years after infestation.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

5. Joint Board Breakfast: Mr. Ocker reported on various topics that were shared during the recent meeting with Supervisors and chairs of other volunteer boards. Of interest to the Shade Tree Commission were discussions on the new Community Center; the Parks Master Plan; the hiring of goats to manage invasive plants at Bob White Park; and incidence of mulch fires on the Route 202 median strip (caused by discarded cigarette butts!)
6. Tree education: Details were discussed about the upcoming Tree Identification program, set for March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM. Ms. Van Clief and Mr. Ocker will collaborate on the presentation. Notice has been submitted to the Office of Communications for e-publication.
7. Tree Care Volunteer Days: Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> was set as the date for a Tree Care Volunteer Day. Depending on the number of volunteers (including possible Community Service volunteers), some of the group will re-stake and mulch trees at Whitegate Park, while others may work on vine removal at Walker Park and possibly continue the pruning at Heuser.

8. Spring 2016 Tree Offer: Twelve trees have been ordered through the bare root tree offer for residential front yards. The trees will be picked up by the residents at the lower lot of the Township Building on April 23 – during the Earth Day Celebration.
9. Earth Day: Details for the Earth Day Celebration on April 23<sup>rd</sup> were discussed. Mr. Schutter will provide mulch for the mulching demonstration. There will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help with the tree care day, and Mr. Ocker will announce it during the Tree City USA award ceremony.
10. Beautification Awards: Districts were assigned to each of the STC members, with nominations due by May 18. The Distinguished Tree for 2016 was chosen.
11. Next meeting: May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.