

Upper Merion Shade Tree Commission Minutes

1-17-17

Attending: Ann Marchino, Bob Dempsey, Jerome Ocker (chair), and Barley Van Clief.
Bill Schutter (Staff liaison); Susan Ridgeway (Guest); Sarah DeSanto (Guest).

Meeting called to order: 7:05PM

OLD BUSINESS

- Ash Tree Management Plan for Valley Forge Trail: Jacob Shultz, our forestry consultant, has been hard at work surveying sample plots. The draft report should be available soon.
- Feedback on Shade Tree Commission comments on reviewed plans: Mr. Ocker posed the question: What happens to the STC'S reviews of construction plans? Is there a way we can get notified if the recommendations have been accepted/implemented? Mr. Ocker will contact Rob Loeper to find out.
- Review of Community Center plantings: Mr. Ocker has visited the Community Center several times and made recommendations for changes to the planting plan. Some of the recommendations have been followed.
- Video Series: Ms. Van Clief has been in touch with Mr. Herbert concerning the planned series of educational videos on tree topics. At his request, we will each provide a topic outline for our assigned presentations, which will allow for better planning for the videographers. The video on Emerald Ash Borer has been completed and aired on the Township's closed circuit station.

NEW BUSINESS

- Election of officers: As required, the group chose officers for the upcoming year. Ms. Van Clief will resume the Chair; Mr. Ocker will be Vice-Chair; Ms. Marchino will be Secretary.
- New member: Susan Ridgeway, the Upper Merion Tree Tenders leader, will be applying to fill the seat on the Shade Tree Commission that has been vacated by Michael Sullivan. We discussed the procedure for application.
- Residential tree orders and distribution: The response to the front yard tree offer has been excellent, with 25 applicants. Since only 15 trees can be ordered at the subsidized price of \$40, those who responded after those 15 spaces were claimed will need to pay the full wholesale price of \$80. The group reviewed the species availability list and chose a number of appropriate small, medium and large-maturing trees to offer the residents. Ms. Van Clief will send out the order forms. The trees will be distributed on April 22, 2017 at the Township Building, starting at 9:00 AM.

- Earth Day/Arbor Day 2017: April 22 is also the date of the annual Earth Day celebration. Mr. Schutter and Mr. Ocker will handle the tree distribution on that day. Ms. Ridgeway will organize the Shade Tree Commission/Tree Tenders table, possibly with assistance from Ms. DeSanto. Mr. Ocker will present a tree mulching demonstration for the festival participants.
- BCA Grant for 2017: The next round of Board of Community Assistance grant applications is due in February. The group decided to submit requests for the remaining critical tree care work that was identified last year. Ms. Van Clief and Ms. Ridgeway will work on that.
- Sarah DeSanto Senior Project: Ms. DeSanto explained her proposal for her Senior Project at Upper Merion High School. She will be doing research on the benefits of trees and why they should be valued. In addition, she will contribute approximately 15 hours of community service, including pruning and tree care and community educational activities.
- Winter Pruning Day: Saturday, February 25 from 9 AM – Noon was chosen as a volunteer pruning and tree care day. The group selected Bob Holland Park as the site, since many of the young trees we have planted there need attention. Ms. Van Clief will submit the event for the e-newsletter and notify previous volunteers. Work will include pruning, weeding, mulching, replacing deer guards, re-staking.
- Inventory: In 2017, the STC will attempt to update the park tree inventory and add other park(s) to the inventory.

PLAN REVIEW

Plans were reviewed for:

- Caley Court Estates
- 850 Mancill Mill Road

Next meeting: March 15, 2017, 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.