

SHADE TREE AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

The members of the Shade Tree and Beautification Commission (STC) assembled for the regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at Upper Merion Township, 175 West Valley Forge Road, King of Prussia, PA. The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Barbara Van Clief, Chairperson
Michael Sullivan, Vice-Chairperson
Michael Countis
Robert Dempsey
David Sullivan
James Kowal, Staff Liaison
Greg Philips, Board Liaison

ABSENT

Dr. David Krasner

MEETING DISCUSSION:

1. BARE ROOT TREE OFFER

Several people have indicated interest in ordering trees that will be delivered on November 10, 2012. Because of a shorter deadline, a smaller quantity of trees was ordered than in previous years. We are hoping to offer more trees in spring.

2. PARTNERSHIP WITH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

The STC will be partnering with the King of Prussia Business Improvement District (*KoP BID*) to promote the planting of trees in commercial corridors throughout the township. During a recent meeting with Eric Goldstein, Executive Director of the BID, a potential starting point has been identified and a proposal will be drafted and sent to corporate and business entities within the BID jurisdiction.

3. ORDINANCE REVIEW

A meeting has been set with Robert Loeper, Township Planner (*Planning and Development Division*) and Julianne Schieffer (*Penn State Extension Urban Forester*) to review the shade tree sections of the township ordinance. The STC is hoping that revisions will address such environmental concerns as Stormwater Management and the overall vitality of the township's tree canopy.

4. GRANT APPLICATION

The STC discussed the possibility of submitting a grant application to fund a street tree inventory of at least one section of the township with a possibility of including funds to plant some trees in locations with empty planting sites. This will be discussed with the Township Planner.

5. BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

The awards will be presented at the Board of Supervisor's meeting on October 4, 2012. All awardees have now been chosen along with the distinguished tree award. Don Herbert videotaped most of the properties that will be shown during the presentation.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Michael Countis will investigate Heritage Tree programs so that the STC can consider establishing one in the township. The purpose will be to highlight trees that provide especially valuable benefits to the community and promoting the preservation of those special trees.
- b. Robert Dempsey will visit the school district to see if there are potential tree and beautification projects that may interest the schools.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: November 14, 2012