

Upper Merion Township Shade Tree Commission
Meeting Notes: 3-14-12

Attending: Michael Countis, Jay Kowal, Greg Philips, Michael Sullivan, Barley Van Clief (chair)

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.
2. Vacancy: The group discussed the recent vacancy on the Commission that occurred with the passing of Dr. David Krasner. The Township and the Commission sent condolences to Mrs. Krasner. We would like to encourage an arborist to apply. Jay will contact a potential candidate that he knows.
3. Bare Root Tree Offer: Residents have ordered 30 bare root trees through the TreeVitalize subsidized grant offer. These will be picked up by Jay's crew at the Philadelphia Navy Yard on April 19 and delivered to Nor-View Farm. The exception is one large order of 14 trees that will be delivered directly to the homeowner. This resident has requested help with planting the trees, and Barley asked the group to consider volunteering. The Upper Merion Tree Tenders are also soliciting volunteer help.
4. Earth Day Celebration: The Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring an Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 21 and has asked both the Shade Tree Commission and Upper Merion Tree Tenders to participate. Barley asked if any of the group could volunteer to staff a table at the event from 10AM - 12 noon.
5. Ordinance review: Rob Loeper has suggested that it may be time to take a look at the current Shade Tree Ordinance, which was most recently reviewed in 2001. Supervisor Philips agreed and also suggested that the Commission consider its function within the Township: will it continue to be advisory or will it become regulatory. Copies of the ordinance were distributed, to be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.
6. Joint meeting: The joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and Shade Tree Commission will be held on April 19 at 8:30 PM.
7. Eagle Scout project: Barley and Jay reported on the Eagle Scout project of James Shelton. He will be coordinating a large clean-up of the Township-owned woods behind The Factory on 431 West Valley Forge Road, currently scheduled to begin on April 14, 2012. Jay and Barley met with James at the site to review his plans.

8. Beautification awards: At the May meeting, areas of the Township will be assigned for Commission members to assess for the 2012 Beautification Awards. Barley will submit a notice for the e-newsletter and news channel, asking residents to submit nominations (especially for the back yard awards, since those cannot be adequately viewed without homeowner permission.)
9. Plan review: The group reviewed the landscape plan of the proposed Porcelanosa site on Dekalb Pike and submitted suggestions for the developers.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.