

Upper Merion Shade Tree Commission
Meeting Minutes
3-19-14

Attending: Bob Dempsey, Ann Marchino (chair), Jerome Ocker, Bill Schutter, Mike Sullivan, and Barley Van Clief

1. Meeting called to order: 6:58 PM.
2. Update on PA Community Forests grants
 - a. Inventory grant:
 - i. The group discussed plans to continue/complete the inventory on Heuser Park and Executive Estates trees – adding the trees that were planted there last fall, as well as the trees along Henderson Road at Ross. Once that is done, the inventory work will be completed and the final report can be written and submitted.
 - ii. Additional parks that should be inventoried in the future: Bob White, Sweetbriar and Tabak.
 - b. Planting grant:
 - i. Bill Schutter will order the watering tank and tree guards for the newly planted trees. He and his staff will rig up a watering system that will work, so that they can begin to water the trees this spring.
 - ii. The southeast quadrant of Heuser Park (where Kentucky Coffeetrees were planted) appears to be very wet. There is concern that the trees may not thrive there. We will visit the site this spring to confirm the conditions, and consider moving those trees to another more suitable location.
3. Eagle Scout projects
 - a. Neither of the two Eagle Scout candidates have chosen to work with trees this time.
 - b. The STC will be open to proposals from Eagle Boy Scouts or Gold Award Girl Scouts for a future combination inventory/planting project at Bob White Park, Sweetbriar Park and Tabak Park (where ash trees are likely to be found).

4. Emerald Ash Borer

- a. Bill Schutter, one of his staff and Barley Van Clief attended a recent EAB workshop sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The workshop reinforced our appreciation that management plans for the numerous large ash trees in Executive Estates Park and several smaller ones at Township Building Park need to be addressed. Jerome Ocker has measured the large ash trees at Executive Estates, and Barley has submitted them to DCNR as potential sites for a treatment demonstration. Failing that, an alternative will need to be discussed.

5. Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration:

- a. The STC will have a table at the Earth Day event on April 26.
- b. Jerome Ocker, Bob Dempsey and Sue Ridgeway will staff the table.
- c. They will promote a volunteer sign-up sheet for future tree inventory and planting events.
- d. They will also ask the residents to nominate back yards (especially) and front yards for the 2014 Beautification Awards.
- e. Barley Van Clief will provide information about tree care and mulching.

6. Pruning Young Trees

- a. The group discussed the possibility of having a fall training session on the pruning of young trees, with a volunteer “practicum” at Heuser Park.
- b. Bill Schutter will look into insurance ramifications.

7. Tree planting

- a. On April 26, 15 memorial trees will be planted at Executive Estates Park. Ann Marchino and Barley Van Clief are spearheading that effort. Volunteers are welcome.
- b. Bare root trees (approximately 20) will be ordered through PHS’s TreeVitalize program for November planting. Some will be designated for park planting.
- c. Bare root trees will also be offered to residents for front yard planting in November. The cost is anticipated to be \$25 per tree. Orders will be taken in August.

8. 2014 Beautification Awards

- a. Sections of the Township were divided among the members, who will do drive-by evaluations of the front yards.
- b. Nominations (2 per section) will be due at the next STC meeting on May 23.

9. Next meeting: Wednesday, May 23 at 7 PM.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.