

Upper Merion Shade Tree Commission Meeting
7-13-14

Attending: Bill Schutter (Staff liaison); Erika Spott (Board liaison); Bob Dempsey, Jerome Ocher, Mike Sullivan, Barley Van Clief (proxy chair)

1. Meeting called to order: 7:10 PM
2. Beautification Awards: Presentation will be on Thursday, September 18, 2014. Ms. Marchino, Mr. Dempsey and Mr. Sullivan are expected to attend.
One additional front yard award was self-nominated. Mike Sullivan reviewed the property and recommended that we recognize it. There will be 11 front yards, one back yard and two commercial properties awarded.
3. PA Community Forests Grants for tree planting and inventory:
 - Seven additional trees were planted in Heuser Park.
 - All trees planted between fall 2013 and summer 2014 have now been inventoried.
 - Remaining funds from the planting grant will be devoted to bark protectors and gator bags.
 - Remaining funds from the inventory grant will be devoted to tree Identification and Care books
4. Tree issues:
 - Newly planted red oak trees in the Ross/Henderson Road properties were checked. One needed to be straightened. Mr. Schutter will have his crew complete the work tomorrow.
 - The selected large ash trees in Executive Estates Park have now been treated to prevent Emerald Ash Borer with a soil drench. Continued ash tree treatment will be included in future budgets to allow for injection treatment with TreeAge (giving 2-year protection). Treatment will rotate between the Executive Estates ashes and others in Township Parks (potentially Sweetbriar Park). Mr. Schutter will remind Mr. Ocher in January of the need to schedule spring treatment.
5. Pruning Workshop :
 - The public is invited to attend two pruning workshops.
 - i. July 30 at 6:30 PM in the Valley Forge Room, with hands-on demo/practice at Township Building Park
 - ii. Pruning Event -- Saturday, August 2 at 9 AM at Heuser Park
 - iii. Tuesday, September 30 at 6:30 PM in the Valley Forge Room
 - iv. Sunday, October 5 at 1 PM
 - A pruning tool-sharpening demonstration will be included in the workshop.
 - The Upper Merion Tree Tenders have received a \$275 grant from Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, to initiate a "Pruning Club". The planned four events are an

obligation under the grant. Mr. Ocher and Ms. Van Clief will provide the required certified arborist supervision.

6. Fall Planting:

- There will be a fall volunteer tree planting, using the Committee's \$500 budget and the Tree Tenders' Community grant for \$500. This should supply approximately 40 trees, which will be planted in a Township park – most likely Whitegate Park.
- Mr. Schutter's crew will pick up the trees at the Philadelphia Navy Yard on Thursday, November 13.
- The planting date will be Saturday, November 15.

7. New business:

- The Parks and Recreation Board has requested representation from the Shade Tree Commission to sit on an ad hoc committee that will create the new Parks Master Plans. Mr. Dempsey volunteers to be that representative. Ms. Marchino will be asked to serve as proxy in his absence.
- The Commission's budget for 2015 will be submitted in September. The group concurred that we should increase the requested budget to cover potential contingencies. In addition, the projected cost of EAB treatment will be included.
- Upcoming deadlines for Twp announcements – the next deadline for Township Lines is August 28.

8. Plan review (if needed) – none required.

9. Next meeting: September 17 at 7 PM

10. Meeting adjourned: 8:20 PM