

Upper Merion Shade Tree Commission Meeting

1-21-15

Attending: Ann Marchino (chair), Mike Sullivan, Barley Van Clief.
Bill Schutter (Staff liaison), Erika Spott (Board liaison)

1. Meeting called to order: 7:03 PM
2. Reorganization: Nominations were made, but the vote was deferred and will be held by email. The new chair or vice-chair will attend the Citizen Board breakfast on February 12 at 7:30 AM.
 - Mr. Sullivan nominated Jerome Ocker for the Chair position. Ann Marchino seconded. Since Mr. Ocker was not present, a vote will be held by email after we determine if Mr. Ocker accepts the nomination.
 - Ms. Van Clief nominated Ann Marchino for Vice-Chair, seconded by Mr. Sullivan.
 - Mr. Sullivan nominated Ms. Van Clief for Secretary, seconded by Ms. Marchino.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Emerald Ash Borer suppression: Davey Tree Experts will be treating selected ash trees in the parks by injection, most likely in March. This treatment must be applied in early spring when sap begins running.
4. Trunk protection status: Bark protectors have been installed on every tree that has been planted in the past 2 years, to ward off deer damage. Enough protectors were donated by Davey Tree Experts to serve us for many planting seasons to come. The protectors will remain on the trees until they are large enough in caliper to not be in jeopardy of antler rubbing.
5. Tree grants: Final reports have been submitted and accepted by PA Community Forests for both the tree planting and inventory grants. Reimbursement checks will be received by the Township shortly.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Report from Park & Recreation Committee meeting: Mr. Dempsey was not available to report on progress of the new Parks Master Plan. However, Ms. Spott reminded us that every resident has a voice in the outcome of the plan, and should complete the survey that is currently available on the Township website.
7. Plans for 2015 Activities:
 - **Spring planting** – The group decided to place a minimal order for bare root trees for spring. Two trees will be requested through the TreeVitalize program: 1) A sugar maple, *Acer saccharum* 'Legacy' to replace the tree that was missing at Whitegate Park in November; 2) a swamp white oak, *Quercus bicolor*, to plant at the spring Arbor Day

celebration. This will serve as a planting demonstration that we are hoping can be put on the agenda. Mr. Schutter will find out what date the celebration is scheduled.

- **Resident bare root orders** – this will be deferred until the fall planting season when we will have more time to promote the offer.
- Previous plantings –
 - i. The STC will schedule a general tree care day during summer, hopefully with a scout or other civic group of volunteers. The tasks will include removing the stakes and ties from trees planted in November of 2013; weeding, cultivating and mulching under planted trees; revealing trunk flares where needed; pruning of dead or broken branches.
 - ii. Possible pruning club event – should take place later in the summer, continuing the removal of dead and broken branches, but also potential pruning for healthy form.
- Future plantings –
 - i. Fall 2015 – The STC will host a park tree planting (15-30 trees, depending on funding, see below). Potentially the May STC meeting will include a tour of potential planting sites that will allow the group to start planning the fall planting.
 - ii. Spring 2016 – Possible planting locations include: the new Heuser /Valley Forge trail; connector trails from the new Community Center; additional parks.

8. Community Assistance Board grant: Susan Ridgeway will be submitting a grant request for the current round, on behalf of the Upper Merion Tree Tenders group, in partnership with the Shade Tree and Beautification Commission. The funds will be used to purchase trees and related supplies for fall 2015 tree planting.

9. Flower Show volunteers: Ms. Van Clief announced that PHS is looking for additional volunteers for the Philadelphia Flower Show, between February 27 and March 8, 2015. Potential volunteers can reach her at bvanclief@pennhort.org.

10. Plan reviews: No plans

11. Next meeting: March 18, 7:00 PM in the Henderson Room

12. Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM