

Upper Merion Shade Tree Commission Meeting

5-20-15

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

Meeting called to order: 7:00 PM.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Report from Park & Recreation Committee meeting: Mr. Dempsey reported on progress of the new Parks Master Plan. The committee is waiting for the final input from the online survey. Approximately 700 responses have been received thus far, with a 3% return rate. Various interest groups are offering their viewpoints. The summary and analysis will be expected in July.
2. May 16th Work Day Report -- All the new trees planted at Heuser Park have received care including: weeding, mulching and stake removal where appropriate. A few were pruned, and 8 dead trees were removed. At Executive Estates Park, stakes were removed from all but 8 of the 22 new trees. For the next work day, 24 trees need to be mulched.
3. Beautification Awards – Seven nominations for front yards and one for a back yard were submitted to Mr. Schutter. Three more nominations are pending. The 2015 Distinguished Tree was selected.

NEW BUSINESS

4. June 6, 2015 Pruning Club Event – Scheduled for 9 AM at Heuser Park, will continue the removal of dead and broken branches and where appropriate, pruning for healthy form. In addition, seven new trees will be planted to replace the dead trees.
5. Ash tree inventory – During the summer, STC members will conduct an informal inventory of ash trees that are located in township parks. Ash trees near walking trails have already been identified in the McKaig Natural Area. Monitoring of these trees will be important as the infestation of Emerald Ash Borer progresses. The large ash trees at Executive Estates Park are already being treated.
6. Fall 2015 Planting -- The STC will plan for a November 14th volunteer tree planting event. The location will be determined via a general survey of Upper Merion parks to be conducted this summer. The head of the new Heuser/Valley Forge connector trail currently under construction is one possibility, if construction has been completed. The trail is quite wide, so shade trees will be welcome.
7. Community Assistance Board grant: No word has yet been received about this grant.
8. Plan reviews: The group reviewed landscape plans for the new Upper Merion Community Center and the proposed FedEx Distribution Center.

9. Next meeting: July 15th, 7:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:41 PM