

Upper Merion Shade Tree Commission
Meeting Minutes
3-18-15

Attending: Jerome Ocker (chair), Ann Marchino, Mike Sullivan, and Bill Schutter

Guests: none

Meeting called to order: 7:10 PM.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Newly appointed officers: Chair – Jerome Ocker, Vice-chair – Ann Marchino, Secretary – Barley VanClief.
2. Report on Citizen's Board Breakfast: Jerome attended the meeting.
 - a. An LED sign is planned for the intersection of Henderson and Valley Forge Roads.
 - b. A traffic light is planned at Caley School.
 - c. The Community Center is scheduled to open in the summer.
 - d. The trail easement to Valley Forge has been cleared. It's over 50' wide! We weren't consulted. The trail begins at Heuser Park, across from the playground and goes to the Betzwood Bridge.
3. PA Community Forest Grant – received reimbursement. It's closed out.
4. Community Assistance Grant – Susan Ridgeway filed an application for \$750 for fall tree planting. We will hear about it in May.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. McKaig Park – Matt Thoeny, who is working on service hours for school, walked McKaig with Jerome and the "park ranger", Vytas Masalaitis, to inventory and triage the ash trees. They found a few trees that should be removed, but are unclear as to how to proceed with this information. Although it is Township-owned land, McKaig receives private donations for maintenance. The Township does not maintain the land. Since we are an advisory board to the Township, should we even make a report? Jerome will ask Erika Spott about this.
2. Ash Inventory – Jerome would like to prioritize ash inventorying before doing other species in the rest of the Township parks, so that we can plan for treatment. No dates set.
3. Park and Rec Committee report – Bob was not at the meeting. Jerome will ask him for a written report for the next meeting.
4. On-line Parks and Recreation survey. There are 750 responses so far.
5. E-Newsletter – people can sign up for a Township e-newsletter now.

6. Arbor Day – To be held 4-25-15, from 9am – 2pm.
 - a. We have a table, and can provide hand-outs about the fall tree planting.
 - b. There will be a bare root tree planting demonstration, using a dead tree. It will be pulled from Heuser Park.
 - c. Will Michael, an Upper Merion scholarship applicant, needs community service hours and will help man table. Ann, Jerome and Mike will be there, as well as Sue Ridgeway.
7. Spring Planting/Activities – We will be planting a Sugar Maple at Whitegate Park and a Red Oak at the Township Park, also on 4-25. Interested citizens can observe and learn.
8. Fall planting date will be 11-14-15. We discussed Bob White or possibly the trail, if it's ready.
9. Beautification Awards – We will keep the same areas that we had last year. Ann will give map to Barley. At least two nominations for each area are due by the next meeting. If a person has won within the last 5 years, they are not eligible. Ann will distribute an updated list with the 2010-2014 winners.
10. Care of Trees Demonstration – This will be at Heuser Park on May 16th. We'll remove stakes and mulch trees that were planted in fall of 2013.
11. Pruning Club – We will prune young trees in Heuser Park on Saturday, June 6.
12. Ash Treatment – The 6 large ash trees in Executive Estates Park will receive a treatment of Triage, which is effective for 2-years. Bill will arrange to have it video-taped.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. E-Newsletter – Barley feeds information to them about volunteer days.

The next meeting: Wednesday, May 20th at 7 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.