



## Upper Merion Shade Tree & Beautification Commission Meeting Minutes

9-21-22

Call to order: 7:00 PM

Roll call: Bob Dempsey, Tina Garzillo (Supervisor Liaison), Chris Marshall, Jerry Recupido (Staff Liaison, via Zoom), Sue Ridgeway, Barley Van Clief

Guests: Mary Ann Ahearn (Parks & Rec Board); Theresa Landewe (EAC), Jennie Ryan-Gisewhite

Approval of minutes from last meeting: Passed unanimously

### Old Business

#### a) Volunteer Work Days

- Saturday, November 5 – The event will begin at 8:30 AM, organizers to meet at 8:00 AM. Location is at the compost site. Rain date: November 6. The thought of asking community members if they would like to salvage Sycamore saplings was discussed. Although this seems like a viable option, the logistics would be complicated, especially in light of inexperienced individuals selecting the wrong trees. Rather than a free-for-all, it was suggested that we have interested residents contact Barley and arrange to dig and adopt specific trees.
- Saturday, January 28? – This date is tentatively set for a work day to remove vines and volunteer trees that are challenging the forest diversity at Heuser.

#### b) Bare Root Fall 2022

- Jerry will pick up the Township's trees on Wednesday afternoon, November 16, the first available time slot. His staff will plant those trees to be placed on public land. Residents who have ordered trees may pick them up at Nor-View Farm on Saturday, November 19. Chris and Barley will mark the park locations on November 11 in preparation for Jerry's crew pre-digging the holes. Barley requested that the staff be encouraged to attend a Bare Root

Tree planting training prior to that week. She also requested that each planting site be prepared with three shallow holes in the shape of a Venn diagram to allow for better root establishment.

c) Trail Reports

- Schuylkill West Trail: The trail connector has been completed. There are sites where trees can and should be planted, to replace those taken by the contractor. Tina will check to see what obligation they have for tree planting. There are also many sites along the trail where trees can be planted, one example being near the sewage treatment plant at Mancill Mill Road.
- Crow Creek --The contractor still owes 6 trees to be planted at Volpe Commons. Two of the young trees there have died and could be replaced by Kenney, Inc. Several ash trees have fallen on the new path between West Beidler Road and Abrams Road. Jerry's crew has cleared the path and will continue to remove the marked ash trees as time permits.

d) BCA Grant: Mulch has been delivered to the Tree Nursery, and we should notify Jerry if more is needed. There are just a few minor expenditures required to complete the grant. Barley will take care of those and submit the final report.

New business

- a) Stormwater and Trees – Tree canopy objectives of the STC are aligned closely with stormwater management objectives of the UM Stormwater Authority. An ad hoc committee is being formed with representatives of the Authority (Dianne Reilly), the EAC (Theresa Landewe) and the STC (Barley Van Clief and Chris Marshall). The group will be discussing the possibility of constructing a rain garden near the Community Garden site, using this as a training opportunity for residents.
- b) Tabak Park – Barley and Chris visited Tabak Park and made planting recommendations for the site. Tina clarified that the purpose of plantings is to define the property boundaries and discourage illicit use of the property for storage, etc. She will check on the status of the plantings and whether fee-in-lieu funding can be used.

Plan Review

- A productive work meeting was held on September 13, with Jennie, Chris, Jerome and Tina along with Ashton Jones. The overall STC will attempt to become more involved and organized in plan review. Chris should be placed on the email notifications of plans in the Dropbox.
- Ashton clarified that the STC needs only to comment on species and placement for the final plans. The Landscape Architect from Remington will be reviewing the

landscape plans before final submission. However, we do appreciate the ability to see properties before trees are slated for removal.

Next Meeting: November 16, 7:00 PM.,

Adjournment; 8:12 PM