

## Upper Merion Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes July 19, 2023

**Attendees:** Barley VanClief, Jerome Ocker, Chris Marshall, Susan Ridgeway, Tina Garzillo, Jerry Recupido, Mary Ann Ahern, Parks & Rec

**Guest:** Josie Wallmuth

**Supervisor's report:** Tina reported on the new ban on plastic utensils and bags – Board of Supervisors passed ordinance. Basically, for the food stores at the Mall, by next July 2024 for the utensils, and plastic bags & Styrofoam – Jan of 2024. Wooden spoons, biodegradable, cane sugar utensils are the replacements. Getting some publicity. Good step forward...

In litigation, 451 West Beidler Road – big dip in road, we approved 9 townhouses to be put there. Requested 12 and lost. Negotiated down to 9. Storm water issue. Lidl, on 202 by Chick Fil A, is closed as of yesterday. Skeleton crew of 15 – sales volume was too low.

New restaurant where the Fox and Hound is – it's a tear down and new construction. Two other companies, Wayfair backed out and "Eatery" may or may not be going in.

Sinkhole on Henderson Road- Tina went over and checked it out daily and reported it needed to be looked at again after 'big dips' appeared in the road. There is another sinkhole on private property – which the owner will have to address.

Jerome asked a question about 451 West Beidler Road project – will there be a light there? We need to keep an eye on storm water issue at new townhouses. Tina said no light - only 9 townhouses.

Road Closures – a lot right now in the township - Arden Rd – Weadley Road, Henderson Road.

**Jerry Recupido reported** one of his employees took a Tree climbing class. During storms, 2 trees came down in parks. That's all for his report

**Raingarden grant** – Barley reported on the BCA grant in conjunction with EAC and Parks & Rec Board – Jeff Hickman, Dennis League from ERO to do the design of the garden – its need to be a 4 bay. Because of technical issues. Coordinating with Jerry Recupido's guys to do work in September and then Barley said the planting will be Oct. 14. Theresa has placed an order for the plants that we don't have in the nursery.

**Meadow Grant** – money will be for 2024. But get rid of the Pear trees. Chris and Jerry R have pesticide license. Date for pesticide and hatchet to get rid of it. Can the township purchase it? Probably through Jerry's budget – to buy pesticides? He will check. Jerry said to make sure we get the grant.

**Research on the Bradford pears** – and the fruit and propagation. Look up on PSU Extension. Talking about 10-15 trees – about 8-inch diameter trees. Regardless if we get grant or not, we want to get rid of them. Too near the community garden and the meadow. Cut the trees

down. Jerry can schedule it but it won't be soon because of summer vacations. Jerry thinks there are more than 15 trees. Pesticide is PathFinder – Chris can get a price. Jerry will talk to Todd about the trees. Residents would question why we are taking down the trees. Barley said put a ribbon around all the pear trees. Jerome will use the yellow caution tape so we can count them. He would tag the cedar and the bartlett pears to remove.

**Riparian Grant at Sweet Briar** – Met with ArcWild – Barley and Therese – walked from Abrams Mill to Covered Bridge. And found plenty of places to put riparian buffer. New oxbows, new undercuts from the storms. Emma mapped all the eligible places where the riparian buffer should be. She will provide us with a map. DCNR sent ArcWild means it seems like we are getting the grants for Meadow and Riparian – for 2024 – for spring planting...this was a couple of weeks ago.

**Sweet Briar – Memorial Tree** – Beidler Road entrance – Heritage River Birch Tree and maybe put at that entrance area. Plant towards the bridge. The family will plant it. Don't know the details yet. Maybe this fall. Gerri Vattimo will be in touch with the family.

**Trail Report** – Trees - 15 this fall and 15 in spring- less we do in Fall makes Jerry's life easier. These trees are supposed to put 3 around a bench – locations in the email that Gerri Vattimo sent. The benches will be installed. Some benches are installed already. \$7500 was the amount of grant listed with all the items. 2 grants are being combined. Not sure who is in charge of this grant. How to label the trail to make it easy for 1<sup>st</sup> responders. Need collaboration on this grant. Peco Green Grant.

**Moore Multi modal** – no updates

**Vytas – need volunteers** for planting in August. He will contact them and figure out the project. Solar screen – Jerome thought he had a take whatever you need. Theresa has a list of trees for the raingarden. Some will need to be repotted if they are not going to be used. Running out of room. Raingarden in October. Anything we don't use, we need to repot. Some pots were donated. We need some bigger ones – 3 gallon ones.

**Table Cover** – Signage - Shade Tree banner designed – white oak leaf – can hang it behind a tent. Have gromets to hang in front of a table cloth. Ordered a table cover from Township. Gerri Vattimo has some money to use to buy it. Table top sign – trade show sign – 24 inches for volunteers. Send to Tina to get authorization for using the Upper Merion logo.

Near deciduous trees where we already planted. Jerome talks to owner to ask where to move them. Chris has been there several times but never saw the owner. The leylands will be too wide for that spot. Owner asked for a buffer. Tony wanted to plant more stuff. Need to move what's there. Jerome thinks we need to plant between the rail beds and the creek- the polygon from the map will show up at this spot. Jeff said there is a problem – when we see the property – give them the paper or walk up to the door. Lack of interest or adding an

environmental category. People nominate themselves for the Holiday and Halloween contest. Do a redo of the program.

**Fall work day** – Oct 28 at Heuser Park. Vetted with Gerri Vattimo

**New Business** – Josie - Friends group of park – natives at the park signs, work with different groups in Township. Spring Cleanup for playground etc. Gardeners cut vines, etc. Talked with Gerri Vattimo about a bulletin board model – post for people who are walking the park daily. Especially gets people connected. Sweet Briar Park. Shade Tree will be happy to work with any group in the parks. Tina said that it is Township property and residents are users of the property. Groups take ownership sometimes so to be careful. Come to a Parks and Rec board meeting and present the ideas to board. Make sure its vetted properly and everyone is onboard. Josie is Tree Tender graduate. Work together with Park and Rec– wear yellow vest with Volunteer. Communication is key to working together with Park and Rec.

**Eagle Scout projects** – they come and talk to Park and Rec and then they vote on it.

**Tree – checkers for PHS** – from last 2 plantings – we have the list- scheduling it...divide the trees up and sent out the info on how to do it, is it dead or alive, have mulch?

**Ross and Henderson tree** – bicolor – bent over top – Jerome will go check it out. Might need a bamboo pole to straightened it out. Diapers on trees and they are full. 2 dead trees at Sewage Treatment plant.

**Planted last fall** – we will check them.

**Community Fair – Oct 7** – table for STC.

**Plan responses** - have a meeting to review plan – focus more on percentage of species. Look in township for list of approved trees – move to an addendum so its easier to add/delete. Tina said it still has to go through the same process to be updated.

Vytas is doing the Tumbledock volunteers.

**Bareroot tree application** will be out in a week or so. Preliminary notice in the e-newsletter. Email Chris Marshall if you would like a tree.

**Mary Ann asked** about Crow Creek grant money – for a reasonable adaptation to trail by Covered Bridge – there's a spot where cyclists need to jump a curb – or needs a curb cut- can't it be a wider sidewalk? Mary Ann thought we need an explanation of ADA requirements – or maybe just add a trail mark - dumped there by the Covered Bridge – need signs or something. Josie said the National Park has trail maps posted and if it's meant to be a trail for cyclists directional signage should be there. Jerome said it is also ambiguous at the Middle School - If you are on a bike then you are in the middle of the road facing traffic to get to the crosswalk.

Sept 20 is the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 8:57 pm