



MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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MEETING MINUTES September 16, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Shade Tree Commission was held at 7:30 PM, Wednesday, September 16, 2015, in the Montgomery Township Building on Stump Road. The members of the Shade Tree Commission in attendance included: Roy Rodriguez, Rich Roller, and Jay Glickman. Also present: Michael Fox, Board Liaison; Marianne McConnell, Deputy Zoning Officer; and Judy Stern-Goldstein, Boucher & James.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion made by Rich Roller and seconded by Jay Glickman, the minutes from the August 2015 meeting were approved as submitted.

Forest Management Plans II and III Review with Curt Eshelman of Timberlink Consulting:

Spring Valley Park MU1 – 18 acres – Mature hardwood stand. Invasives, EAB threat

- Trail to Bellows Way – mini-made trails to adjoining residential properties exist. There is evidence of cutting, dumping clippings, encroachment into township parkland.
- Mature forest that needs some attention
- Do we want to establish property lines? Survey property?
- Recommend Ash salvage (Tulip Poplar is present also)
- First 200-300 yards in from Bellows Way is a uniform stand of Black Walnut. Threat of Thousand Cankers disease; recommend keeping an eye on it.
- Some accessibility challenges (no water crossings like those at Windlestrae)
- Treat / manage invasives prior to or in conjunction with harvesting / salvaging
- Winter is the best time to harvest. Summer is an option too. Area would need to be closed for two weeks during harvesting.
- Timberlink Consulting services for harvesting include marking the trees, draft bid documents, coordinate harvest with contractor, on-site during harvesting.

Spring Valley Park MU2 - Younger / healthy forest. Callery Pear invasives exist. Recommend hand-picking them out before it becomes more condensed.

Natural Area – Headwaters of the Wissahickon Creek (top end of the watershed)

- A plan must be submitted to the Fish & Boat Commission for approval prior to any harvesting or invasives management. The plan would include any avoidance measures on any “threatened” species (plant, bog turtle)
- MU1 – Good Red Oaks – Recommend removing some to open up the canopy. Remove some Ash and invasives as well.
- MU2 – Open fields; younger stand, pole stands – Maple, Hickory, and Ash trees
- Access from Winter Drive is best

- Sewer line runs through natural area
- Recommend educating residents on dumping of grass clippings and damage it causes. (website, handouts, yard waste drop-offs, Xmas tree drop offs)

Overall Priorities from Phase II and III – The priorities discussed in Spring Valley Park (MU1 section) was managing the invasives and harvesting the Ash trees. The Ash trees should be salvaged whether the invasives are treated or not. After salvaging, trees should be replanted immediately with tree tubes installed to protect from deer. (Plant 2-3 year old bare root nursery stock). Localized spraying can be done with pump sprayers if needed.

It was also discussed to share the forest management plans with the Wissahickon Water Shed.

Public Comment: none

Correspondence: none

Update on Projects: The status charts were reviewed for replacement trees, land development projects and Shade Tree projects.

Land Development – The Commission was updated on the following projects: Kin Properties / Sprint Store, start of maintenance inspection and escrow release; Goodwin Tract tree protection fencing. Indian Lake Farms development has required replacement trees and required trees were removed over the last several years prior to acceptance. The developer has proposed to install 3 pine trees on each perimeter lot. If the homeowner does not want the 3 trees, then a fee in lieu of will be paid by the developer. The Shade Tree Commission agreed with this proposal with the request that the trees installed would be anything other than white pine trees.

Shade Tree Projects – Two projects will move forward this fall; the maintenance of the stamped concrete around the sundial and the Sugar Maples at Memorial Grove replacements. The third project, Red Maples at Township Building along Horsham Rd, will be postponed as we will wait until Spring 2016 to see if trees leaf out. The seed for the meadow was delivered and will be spread in the Spring.

Old Business:

2016 Preliminary Budget / Projects – The preliminary budget for 2016 was reviewed and the following projects were discussed for 2016:

1. Replacement of Ash trees in Zehr parking lot (approximately 20 trees – Public Works to remove dead trees then purchase and install new trees.
2. Memorial Grove parking lot tree replacement (4-6 trees)

*Discussed replacing Ash with Sawthooth Oaks or London Planes (2” caliper can be purchased in bulk)

Basins to Assess for Naturalization Program – Six basins will be selected to be assessed in October for naturalization. The Commission discussed revisiting the basins “naturalized” already starting with the first six. A list will be provided at the next meeting.

New Business:

Arbor Day 2016 Tree Order – 275 trees have been pre-ordered from Octoraro Native Plant Nursery. The trees selected are red maple, serviceberry, river birch, redbud, pagoda dogwood, flowering dogwood, persimmon, eastern red cedar, sweetbay magnolia, swamp white oak, and red oak.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm. The next meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on October 21st, 2015 at the Montgomery Township Building.