



**MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP
SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

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MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Shade Tree Commission was held at 7:30 PM, Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 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: Bruce Shoupe, Director of Planning & Zoning; Marianne McConnell, Deputy Zoning Officer; Judy Stern-Goldstein, Boucher & James; Greg Reiff, Parks Foreman; and Michael Fox, Board Liaison.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

Minutes: On a motion made by Rich Roller and seconded by Jay Glickman, the minutes from the October 2017 meeting were approved as submitted.

Public Comment: none

Correspondence: The Commission was provided a photo of the installed Magnolia tree in Whispering Pines Park.

Update on Projects / Boucher & James: The Commission was updated on the following Land Development and Shade Tree Projects:

Land Development: Flynn/Derck Minor Subdivision
Joseph Ambler Inn Waiver of Land Development
Montgomery Elementary substitution request and approval

Shade Tree: no update.

Old Business:

Community Tree Workshop Recap – The Commission reviewed evaluations from the event. The comments were very good for the topics, speakers, knowledge gained, the venue, and the lunch. The food was provided by Our Towne Catering in Chalfont and received excellent remarks. The Commission would like recognition given to Mary and Marianne at a future Board meeting for their work and the success of the event. A “Save the date” notice for next year’s event should be sent out as soon as possible once the date is established. Thank you letters to Stephen Hilbert and the speakers will be sent out.

Ash Tree Removal Project Update – All bids received were rejected and the project is going out for re-bid. The pre-bid meeting will be held on December 7, 2017 with the bid opening to be held on December 13, 2017.

Future areas within the Township will be evaluated and discussed for future bid projects for Ash tree removal. Windlestrae Park, Autumn Woods, Fellowship Park, and the open space areas between Winners Circle and Westgate (80-90% Ash, may need to clear cut area) The Conservation District would need to be contacted for any wetlands and floodplain areas. Is there any benefit to declaring an emergency situation in any area? Curt Eshleman will be asked to evaluate the Winners Circle open space area on December 7th after the pre-bid meeting. Timberlink Consulting and/or Boucher & James can be utilized to evaluate Township owned properties and create list of target areas for mass Ash tree removal and individual Ash tree removal.

Boucher & James was asked to develop a plan to evaluate, prioritize, and create a program for Ash tree removal.

New Business:

Arbor Day updated tree order – The Commission would like to add additional trees to the order for a potential Boy Scout planting project in Spring Valley Park. Beech, Hickory, and Oak (Upland, White, Swamp, and Chestnut) were suggested species for this area. Do not recommend Poplar, Hemlock, and Shagbark Hickory. Other options include Sweet Gum and Black Gum for the wooded areas in Spring Valley Park (not near trails, parking, and sidewalks) and Red and Sugar Maples (no Norway Maples).

December Agenda – Next Ash removal project bid. - evaluate Autumn Woods and Winners Circle open space area. Curt Eshleman or Valerie Liggett can evaluate areas for Ash tree hazards, removals. Invite Curt and Valerie to this meeting.

Indian Lake Farms Development Update – Replaced all street trees. 8 Sugar Maples and 6 Red Maples will be given to the Township for installation. The Developer's crew will install them as part of their Land Development agreement. Possible location includes the Zehr Parking lot islands. Public Works can remove the dead Ash trees and Moser's crew can install next week.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on December 20, 2017 at the Montgomery Township Building.