



MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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MEETING MINUTES

August 18, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Shade Tree Commission was held at 7:30 PM, Wednesday August 18th, 2010, in the Montgomery Township Building on Stump Road. The members of the Shade Tree Commission in attendance included: Roy Rodriguez, Rich Roller, Mary Brock, and Lisa Ford. Also present: Bruce Shoupe, Director of Planning & Zoning; Judy Stern-Goldstein, Boucher & James; Marianne McConnell, Deputy Zoning Officer; Ray Barndt; Park Foreman, and John Antonucci.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion made by Rich Roller, and seconded by Roy Rodriguez the minutes from the June meeting were approved as submitted.

Public Comment:

118 Chatham Place – The resident of 118 Chatham Place inquired as to removing the street tree next to her driveway due to the roots uplifting the driveway. The Commission recommended replacing the Sweet Gum with a Honey Locust as their roots should not impact the driveway.

114 Usher Lane – The resident expressed concerns regarding the turnaround located at the end of Usher Lane adjacent to his property. The issues discussed included, the island in the turnaround is not centered to Usher Lane, the parking area is visible from his deck in the rear yard, a dirt pile and stump has not been cleared out at the entrance, and the possibility of cars being parked overnight in the turnaround. The Commission advised the homeowner of the landscaping plan which will create a buffer to the neighboring properties and agreed to re-center the island and clear out the dirt and stump. The Police Department will be notified of the concern of cars parking overnight.

Correspondence: none

Update on Projects – Boucher & James:

Land Development – The committee was given updates on Land Development projects for the General Hancock Hotels, McDonalds, Devon Court, the Cutler Developments, and Ashburn Village.

Old Business:

Usher Lane- The turnaround has been completed by Public Works. The final landscape plans were approved by the Commission and are ready to go out for bid. The project also includes replacement trees at Spring Valley Park. The bid

documents were reviewed and minor changes were made. The bid opening is scheduled for September 9th at 10am to be awarded on September 13th by the Board of Supervisors. Ray Barndt will work with the Eagle Scouts to put up a split rail fence along the trail connecting Usher Lane with Memorial Grove.

Heritage Trees- The Commission discussed adopting a program by Spring of 2011. Individual property owners can nominate their tree and the Township will review the parks for any Heritage trees. This topic will be added to January 2011's agenda for further discussion and to set criteria for these trees to be nominated. The program will be advertised through Enews!, the newsletter and the Township web site.

New Business:

Invasive Plants – The Shade Tree Commission discussed the concerns regarding invasive plants, including bamboo. It was concluded that it was a private property matter that the Township could not get involved.

Wethersfield – The HOA for the Wethersfield Development removed large shrubs in the island at the entrance of Claremont Drive off of Upper State Road. They are seeking advice as to what should be replaced. The photos of the site were reviewed and the STC recommends a 4" caliper Red Spire or Chanticleer Pear tree installed approximately 45 feet back from the stop sign as a replacement.

2011 Budget – Next year's budget was reviewed and potential projects were discussed including replacement trees at the Township building and plantings at Memorial Grove.

Township's 300th Year Celebration – The Township will be celebrating its 300th in 2014. A committee will be formed to plan the events.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM. The next meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on September 15th, 2010 at the Montgomery Township Building.