



**MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP
SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

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**MEETING MINUTES
December 16, 2015**

The regular monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Shade Tree Commission was held at 7:30 PM, Wednesday, December 16, 2015, in the Montgomery Township Building on Stump Road. The members of the Shade Tree Commission in attendance included: Roy Rodriguez, Rich Roller, Jay Glickman and Mary Brock. Also present: Marianne McConnell, Deputy Zoning Officer; Greg Reiff, Parks Foreman; Valerie Liggett, Boucher & James; and John Antonucci.

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

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: Montgomery Elementary School plan review; General Hancock Hotels Start of Maintenance and Escrow Release; Marks Jewelers plan review; Nappen / 1390 Welsh Road plan review; and 1701 N. Line Street plan review. The Community & Recreation Center's landscaping is almost ready to start the maintenance period. Eleven shrubs are required to be replaced due to being cut down by the contractor. Once they are replaced and acceptable, the maintenance period can begin.

Shade Tree Projects – The Sugar Maple Tree Replacement project; the dead/dying trees have been removed and the new trees installed. A letter dated November 30, 2015 was forwarded to Rhoads Nursery in regards to (14) of the trees not being acceptable and therefore, cannot start the maintenance period. Township staff spoke with Dave Rhoads Sr. on December 16, 2015 to confirm receipt of the letter and he advised staff that he did and will contact Valerie of Boucher & James and discuss replacements in the Spring of 2016.

Old Business:

Memorial Grove Plantings and Benches – The Commission viewed photos taken by Greg Reiff of the benches located at the site. It appears that the epoxy coating is cracking, but the concrete is in good condition. Roy will look into repairing / reapplying an epoxy coating to the benches. He may contact Philadelphia Resins and Sherwin Williams. The viburnum around the benches have overgrown and will be removed by Public Works and transplanted to along the tree line surrounding the memorial area.

SALDO Amendments - The Commission reviewed the draft amendments to Section 205-56A of the ordinance. The recommended plant list was reviewed and updated by Boucher & James. The Commission suggested added a second list of recommended street trees with shallower root systems that could be planted 10-12 feet from the sidewalk to add more variety of species as the first list for trees to planted minimum 6 feet from the sidewalk was limited and contained a lot of oak trees that would most likely not be selected due to availability and cost. It was also suggested to add text to Section 205-56B, small street trees, to allow those properties with a smaller front yard setback of 25 feet or less to select trees from this list. The Commission also discussed adding text to allow property owners / homeowners to replace street trees that outside of the maintenance period to be replaced with a caliper of 1 ½ - 2 inches in size rather than the 3 inch caliper required upon initial planting. Boucher & James will update the suggested amendments and will be placed on the January 2016 agenda for review.

2015 Basin Re-Assessments – The Commission reviewed the re-assessments completed for the following basins that entered the Basin Naturalization Program in 2011:

1. #1 – Andrew Lane
2. #2 – Douglas Road
3. #11 – Forest Trail
4. #22 – Winners Circle – Pimlico Way
5. #32 – Heather Ridge
6. #59 & 60 – Montgomery Hollow

New Business: none

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. The next meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on January 20, 2015 at the Montgomery Township Building.