



MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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MEETING MINUTES May 18, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Shade Tree Commission was held at 7:30 PM, Wednesday, May 18, 2016, 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; Michael Fox, Board Liaison; and Judy Stern-Goldstein, Boucher & James.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion made by Jay Glickman and seconded by Mary Brock, the minutes from the April 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

Public Comment:

104 Summer Ridge Drive / Josephine Genco – Mrs. Genco of 104 Summer Ridge Drive spoke to the Commission in regards to her concerns over the Township owned open space property behind her home. She spoke about the poison ivy that grows vigorously in the wooded area and the dead trees that have been cut down and dropped into the wooded area. Greg Reiff of the Public Works department explained that they do routinely spray the poison ivy to keep it from suffocating the trees and encroaching into the surrounding private properties. The trees that have been cut are usually dropped as standard practice. Mrs. Genco requested that a large healthy walnut tree be removed as it drops walnuts onto her adjoining property and she has spent money to restore her lawn and many hours picking up walnuts. The Commission explained to Mrs. Genco that it is their goal to preserve and protect trees and that we do not remove healthy trees. Mrs. Genco felt that the walnut tree was ten feet from her property line. The Township believes that tree maybe 50-75 feet from her actual property line and that she may be maintaining Township land which is not permitted. The Commission discussed the possibility of determining the property line and advising her accordingly.

Correspondence:

Addison Lane / Gee – The property owners, via an email to the Township, have requested to stop the naturalization of the basin located directly behind their home on Magdalena Lane. The Commission was advised that the Township currently does not mow the basin, however, the land outside of the fenced basin and two passes on the interior of the basin along the fence is being mowed. The Commission recommends that the basin remain in the Naturalization Program as part of the MS4 Management Plan and goals of the program.

Update on Projects: Updates were provided for the following projects:

Land Development – The Commission was updated on the following projects: Mark's Jewelers tree protection fencing inspection #1 and #2; Narayan Guest House tree protection fencing inspection #2; BJ's Fueling Station start of maintenance inspection #1 and tree

protection fencing inspection #3; Community Center mid-maintenance period inspection #1; Kidalas Court subdivision end of maintenance inspection #1; Montgomery Elementary School opinion of probable cost and plan review

Shade Tree Projects – The sugar maples at Memorial Grove have been installed. The contractor will provide a maintenance bond prior to payment. The shrubs should be installed shortly around the sundial benches. Rhoads Garden is the contractor for both projects.

Old Business:

Arbor Day 2016 – The event was held on April 23rd at the Community and Recreation Center beginning at 9am with the reading of the Arbor Day Proclamation. Despite the rain and wind, 275 trees were distributed to residents within two hours. The Commission discussed increasing the order to 300 trees for next year. The Commission believes that the new location for the event led to higher visibility, however, some concerns would need to be addressed for next year including: the windy location, set up location, and the foot traffic / flow through event from registration to picking up the tree.

New Business:

Community Center landscaping – The Commission discussed some areas of concern. The meadow in the rear adjacent to the building is a no mow area, however, with the proximity to the tot lot and the need to access the closed system for the spray park, the Parks Foreman, has requested an area that can be mowed. There is a grassy area within the tot lot that is difficult to maintain. No edging was installed against the rubberized playing surface. If mow or trim area it can easily damage the surface. Should the grass be removed? Boucher & James will contact the contractor in regards to installing edging.

Benches at Memorial Grove – An exterior paint was selected to repaint the benches. Public Works will power wash the benches and Roy has volunteered to paint them. The Commission will purchase the paint and supplies needed for the project.

Forestry Management Education Plan – Boucher & James inquired as to creating the resident education plan concerning managing the invasives within the Township lands. There is currently no plan to spray the areas for invasives so no educational plan is necessary at this time.

Encroachment into Township Lands – The Commission discussed the possibility of residents encroaching into Township owned properties (parks and open space areas). It appears that areas are being maintained and in some instances possible structures and landscaping installed on township property adjacent to residential properties and possibly some non-residential properties as well. The Commission recommends the Township investigate methods to communicate to residents that the Township does not allow the maintenance and encroachment onto township property and to contact our Public Works department for any concerns within township owned lands.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm. The next meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on June 15, 2016 at the Montgomery Township Building.