



MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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MEETING MINUTES September 21, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Shade Tree Commission was held at 7:30 PM, Wednesday, September 21, 2016, in the Montgomery Township Building on Stump Road. The members of the Shade Tree Commission in attendance included: Roy Rodriguez, Jay Glickman, and Mary Brock. Also present: Marianne McConnell, Deputy Zoning Officer; Greg Reiff, Parks Foreman; Judy Stern-Goldstein, Boucher & James; and Michael J. Fox, Board Liaison.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion made by Jay Glickman and seconded by Roy Rodriguez, the minutes from the July-August 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

Public Comment: none

Correspondence: none

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

Land Development – The Commission was updated on the following projects: Five Points Plaza Opinion of Probable Cost and Plan Review; Montgomery Retirement Residence / Hawthorne Plan Review; Montgomeryville Nissan Plan Review; Fire Fox Phase II tree protection fencing inspection; 115 Wentworth Drive perimeter tree inspection; Montgomery Chase End of Maintenance Inspection; 1390 Welsh Road tree protection fencing inspection; and Parkview at Montgomery Plan Review.

Shade Tree Projects – The sugar maples at Memorial Grove / Horvath Tract were pruned by Roy and Mary this past week. They only pruned those trees that were not recently planted by Rhoads Garden as they are still within the maintenance / guarantee period. The Commission also discussed the circle area surrounding the sundial as it is currently an eyesore and must be maintained / weeded on a regular basis. Suggested options were to install a weed mat and river rock or install concrete with exposed stone/aggregate. If concrete was decided, expansion joints would be necessary along the perimeter and around the piers.

Old Business:

Basin Naturalization Maintenance and Complaint Guidelines – The Commission further discussed developing guidelines for the basins that were entered into the Naturalization Program through the creation of “no mow” areas. The assessments completed over the years by Boucher & James provide detailed information about each basin including location, size, type of basin, access, features, inlet and outlet structures, slope, vegetation, adjacent properties, and fencing. Currently, township staff is determining what the current process is for inspecting and maintaining the basins and will make suggestions to improve the program and record keeping.

The basin at Magdalena and Addison Lane was also discussed. The Commission reviewed a complaint received in regards to the naturalization of this basin. The Commission felt that the intent of the program was to allow Township owned basins to go natural. There was never any intent to install plantings within any basin that was to be naturalized. Furthermore, the evergreen trees requested by the resident would not be suitable.

AutumnFest 2016 - The Commission discussed having an education table this year at AutumnFest, but unfortunately did not have enough members available to man the table for the entire event.

Knapp Farm Tree Clinic – The Commission would like to host a tree clinic for the residents in Knapp Farm in regards to tree care, pruning, and maintenance. In particular, the trees along the perimeter of the development. Peter Corbo, a Certified Arborist, has volunteered his time to conduct two 1 hour sessions on Saturday October 22nd at 10am and 11am. We will contact two properties as volunteers to have the demonstration conducted on their lot.

Arbor Day 2017 Tree Order – The preliminary order has been placed for 300 trees for next year's event. 20-25 five gallon shade trees have been added to the order for the Township Building along Stump Road to fill in the area for a Spring Planting Project.

Tree City Growth Award – The Commission discussed the idea of hosting a course / seminar through Bartlett Tree Care Services. The seminar would be available to Shade Tree Commission members, contractors, and students. The Commission discussed, topics, credits for spraying license, CEU's, full or half day, ISA Certification, fees, refreshments/lunch... This seminar would take place in the Fall of 2018.

New Business:

2017 Budget – The proposed budget was discussed for 2017 including Arbor Day, Spring and Fall Park projects, Basins, Legacy Tree Program, Memorial Grove, and Consulting Services.

2016-2017 Basins to be Naturalized – The following basins were selected for assessment to be entered into the Naturalized Basin Program:

- #3 – Pauline Circle
- #12 – Heather Knoll
- #20 – The Ridings
- #46 – Mallard Pond
- #47 – Montgomery Lea
- #63 – Bedford Lane

Reassessments will be conducted for the next six basins as well. (In the order that they were entered into the Basin Naturalization Program.)

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 October 19, 2016 at the Montgomery Township Building.