



**MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP
SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

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MEETING MINUTES
December 20, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Shade Tree Commission was held at 7:30 PM, Wednesday, December 20, 2017, in the Montgomery Township Building on Stump Road. The members of the Shade Tree Commission in attendance included: Roy Rodriguez, Rich Roller, and Mary Brock. Also present: Marianne McConnell, Deputy Zoning Officer; Valerie Liggett, Boucher & James; Scott Deiley, Parks Department; John Antonucci; and Michael Fox, Board Liaison.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

Minutes: On a motion made by Rich Roller and seconded by Mary Brock, the minutes from the November 2017 meeting were approved as submitted.

Public Comment: none

Correspondence: none

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

Land Development: Montgomery Elementary Start of Maintenance
Higher Rock Plan Review
Townhouses at Maple Drive and Crystal Road Start of Maintenance
Indian Lake Farms End of Maintenance
Higher Rock Waiver Request Letter Review
Penn Crest Commons Tree Protection Fencing Inspection

Status Charts: The status charts were reviewed by the Commission for updated land development projects, replacement trees, and Shade Tree projects. Rhoads Garden was contacted in regards to the Sugar Maple Grove replacements. They will follow-up after the New Year. Basin Assessments and Re-Assessments were completed in November.

Old Business:

Ash Tree Removal Project / Spring Valley Park Area update – The Bid was awarded to ProMark Tree Service in the amount of \$29,600 during the Board of Supervisors meeting on December 18, 2017. The Contract is being drafted and will be forwarded to ProMark with the award letter.

Ash Tree Removal Project Phase II (Autumn Woods and Winners Circle Open Space Area – Curt Eshleman, Timberlink Consulting, Greg Reiff and Scott Deiley of the Parks Department completed a site visit to Autumn Woods on December 19th. Approximately 175 trees were marked to be felled and removed from the site. The trees are being recommended to be removed from this site due to the number of trails within this area and the easy access for removal. The removal of the wood will help in the appearance and the value of project. It was noted by Curt Eshleman of Timberlink Consulting, that a young stand of hard maple is coming up in the park area. After the removal of the Ash trees, the park will change from an Ash and Red Maple forest to a Hard Maple and Sugar Maple area. He also advised to make sure that bidders know that trees are to be removed from this site in the bid documents.

The Winners Circle Open space area inspection is underway. This site is very different from the Autumn Woods site. The area consists of Ash and Black Walnut trees. It sits within a Riparian zone. It is 30-40 feet wide in some areas. Curt does not recommend wood removal from this site due to its lack of access points and the damage it would create.

The Commission discussed getting this project out to bid immediately. The proposed project would need to be presented to the Board of Supervisors at their January 2nd, 2018 meeting in order to request and obtain authorization to advertise the bid for Phase II.

New Business:

2nd Annual Community Forestry Workshop – The Commission would like to partner with Bartlett Tree Experts again. “Save the Date” notices will be forwarded to those who attended last year and any possible new attendees. The Commission selected two dates for the next workshop, November 1st or 8th, 2018. Mary Brock will confirm dates with the potential speakers and contact Stephen Hilbert of Bartlett Tree Experts. Boucher & James will volunteer their time again for next workshop.

Terrace at Montgomery tree removals – The Commission was advised that the HOA had recently removed the required streets throughout the development. The HOA was contacted and advised that these trees are required to be replaced. The Commission agreed that they must be replaced and that smaller trees in the updated ordinance would be acceptable replacements.

2017 Basin Assessments and Reassessments – The last 6 basins were assessed in November by Valerie of Boucher & James. Some items noted in the assessments include; the Tall Gables basin, a tree is growing within the basin. It seems to be interrupting the functionality of the basin. Valerie recommended removing the tree. The Community Center Basins A,B, & C all have possible blockage and sediment accumulation issues as a result of the infestation of phragmites in all 3 basins. The Commission asked if the low flow channels should be removed as part of the MS4 program. Can the low flow channels be busted up and use the concrete as riprap? Valerie suggested contacting the Township Engineer for his opinion on utilizing it as riprap.

Reassessments were completed on six basins that were previously assessed in 2012. Overall, most basins have progressed nicely. Biggest problem was blocked access to structures and suggested adding riprap to some of these basins.

Arbor Day 2018– Additional trees were added to the Arbor Day tree order for volunteer planting projects (boy scouts service projects). These trees are to be planted in sometime in April in Spring Valley Park after the Ash tree removal is completed.

January Agenda - Reorganization
 Ash tree removal project – phase II
 Ash tree plan (Boucher & James)
 Curt Eshleman – confirm attendance

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm. The next meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on January 17, 2018 at the Montgomery Township Building.