



**MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP
SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

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**Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2018**

The regular monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Shade Tree Commission was held at 7:30 PM, Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 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: Bruce Shoupe, Director of Planning & Zoning; Marianne McConnell, Deputy Zoning Officer; Judy Stern-Goldstein, Boucher & James; Greg Reiff, Parks Foreman; and Michael Fox, Board Liaison.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm

Minutes: On a motion made by Rich Roller and seconded by Jay Glickman, the minutes from the February 2018 meeting were approved as submitted.

Public Comment: Ash Tree Cutting – Winner’s Circle Open Space Areas

102 Pemberton Court – The homeowners expressed concerns and complaints in regards to the amount of wood left behind their property. Homeowners state that all of the wood was left behind their property from the trees taken down behind several properties. They were concerned about a decrease in their property value with the amount of wood laid behind them. Did the Township consider the views that would be left after the project? Can the wood be stacked rather than spread out? Can the branches be chipped?

406 Ascot Court – Ms. Martinkovic stated that there is devastation left behind the townhouse community in which she lives (Winners Circle). She is concerned that the branches left behind have created “bonfires” and with the homes so close to the wooded open space area that it is a hazard. She also states that other trees were damaged as the Ash trees were cut down and some trees left on the ground are blocking streams.

311 Stump Road – Mr. Antonucci of 311 Stump Road expressed that leaving the wood behind is the ecological thing to do. Mr. Antonucci has attended many Shade Tree meetings over the years and he praised the Township for being proactive in regards to the Ash Tree blight and commends them for the work they are doing.

Mr. Fox spoke on behalf of the Township and Commission in regards to this project and the resident’s complaints and concerns. He stated that the Township’s primary goal was safety and getting the hazardous trees down. Ash tree cutting on Township property was the priority. Remediation will not occur at this time and the areas cannot be brought back to their previous state. If there is an overabundance in one area, the Township will look at it and may possibly

do some remediation to lessen the impact. The timeframe for any reassessment is not expected to occur until at least the fall in order to allow these areas to begin the natural decay process. These areas will be assessed to determine if they are progressing as expected. It was not the Township's intention to create a big problem behind a single property / home. Any potential dangers will be evaluated. Mr. Fox also explained to the residents that as advised by the Township Solicitor and Insurance Company, the Township cannot allow residents to enter Township Property to remove the wood and such. It would be considered trespassing.

210 Chatham Place / 201 Durham Way – The homeowners removed 7 street trees (sweet gums) from these two properties. They have asked the Commission for suggestions for best replacements for this site. Because they have 7 trees to replace and a front yard setback of 40 feet with a walkway and some landscaping in front of their homes within this setback, the homeowners are requesting to replace with smaller street trees that are approved for smaller lots (25 foot front yard setback or less). The STC members did not want to approve the smaller trees intended for the smaller lots, but did suggest the, Aristocrat or Chanticleer Pear. This tree is not on the approved street tree list, but the members would like to see it added to the list as another option for those homeowners with lots that have a deeper front yard than the 25 foot smaller lots.

Correspondence: The Commission reviewed the information provided by Ms. Martinkovic of Winners Circle in regards to her request to the HOA for tree plantings due to the construction of the 202 Bypass, the Ash Tree Cutting, and the Imprellis contamination.

Update on Projects / Boucher & James:

Land Development – The Commission was updated on the following projects: Timberlane Inc, 150 Domorah Drive waiver of land development request to expand their parking lot; ProReal Ventures Car Wash Conditional Use application; Joseph Ambler Inn Opinion of Probable Cost; Higher Rock Mixed Use Land Development plan review; North Wales Crossing landscaping inspection; and the Firebirds Restaurant waiver of land development request.

Shade Tree Projects – no update at this time.

Old Business:

Ash Tree Removal Project / Autumn Woods and Winners Circle Open Space Areas – The project was awarded to ARS Corp in the amount of \$135,000 during the last Board of Supervisor's meeting. The project is almost completed. Greg and Curt have conducted several walk-thru's in the past two weeks and are pleased with their overall performance. Any minor issues were addressed immediately.

2018 Spring Planting Project – The dead (Ash trees) parking lot trees at Rosetwig will be removed by the Public Works Department. Quotes were requested to install 38 trees, 3" caliper in size. We received 2 quotes out of the 4 requested. The Commission would like to send out for quotes again with smaller tree sizes, 2-2.5" caliper, stakes required and deer protection. The planting date will be extended to June 15th.

2018 Community Forestry Workshop – We will keep the same format as last year. Breakout sessions will be determined at a later date. The Commission discussed reducing the number of

breakout session choices from 4 to 3. We will also combine the insect and disease updates into one session as well as it will be the same speaker for both topics. The keynote speaker will be Andrew Lloyd, PhD of Bartlett Laboratories. The date of the event will be held Friday, November 2nd, 2018. A Save the Date notice was forwarded to Penn State Extension for mailings.

New Business:

Korean War Memorial – The project is currently on hold, therefore, the budgeted landscaping project the Commission had scheduled for the fall will not be completed. The Commission suggested utilizing these funds for a possible Winners Circle Open Space tree planting project.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm. The next meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on May 16, 2018 at the Montgomery Township Building.