



SHADE TREE COMMISSION
Reorganization Meeting - January 5, 2022
MINUTES

Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at 5:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting – *Zoom*

Members Present: Edgar David, Andrew P. Meehan,

Alternate Members: Mark Eberle, Nilza Lozada and Timothy Knowles

Board of Supervisors Liaison: Joyce Keller

Township Liaison: Mike Richino

Minutes: Angela Caramenico

Vince Marrocco, Celia Cameron and John Casani were absent.

Mark Eberle and Tim Knowles will be full voting members this meeting.

Edgar thanked Andy Meehan for continuing his tenure on the Shade Tree Commission

Annual STC Appointments:

Edgar David nominated Andrew Meehan as Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Meehan declined the nomination.

Due to the absence of three STC members, it was decided that an interim Chair could be appointed tonight, and changes could be made at the next meeting when a full Board is present.

Andrew Meehan nominated Edgar David as Acting Chairman and Mr. David accepted the nomination.

The vote was unanimous to elect Edgar David as Interim Chairman.

Review Minutes of December 1, 2021

It was moved by Andrew Meehan, seconded by Mark Eberle, all voting “Aye”, to approve the October 6, 2021, Shade Tree Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion passed 5-0. None opposed.

STC Budget Review

This item was deferred and will be discussed at the February STC meeting.

2022 FREE Tree Give Away (Sunday, April 24th)

Edgar confirmed that bare root trees have been eliminated for 2022. He will meet with Mark and review the tree list order.

Free Street Tree Planting Program

Mike noted he just processed payment for two new trees and a replacement tree. He added that homeowners do sign an agreement, but he is uncertain about its legality.

The STC agreed to ask John Cassani to review the Free Street Tree Give Away application, readdress the need for participant care and consider how to produce a review of the trees.

This item will be discussed at the next STC meeting.

Whitpain Township Heritage Tree Program

Edgar advised this program includes the Heritage Tree Registry. Mike noted that it is necessary to maintain a heritage tree program to be eligible to be part of the Tree City program. Andy concurred that it is a requirement by Tree City USA.

Edgar discussed the differences between the SALDO code and the Heritage Tree Program. He advised that the SALDO code states any tree over 24" caliber is a heritage tree and is protected.

Mike explained with the Heritage Tree Program, the township assumes some financial responsibility for maintaining the trees and the trees become protected trees.

Mike suggested that a subcommittee be formed on the Heritage Tree Program to research the program, come up with a policy and then present it to entire STC for a vote. Tim volunteered to be on this subcommittee and a nomination was made for Vince Marrocco to be the other STC member on the Heritage Tree Program Subcommittee. Edgar will reach out to Vince.

Township Parks

Centre Square Park; *Establish base plan. Establish parameters.* - Mike will resend the plans to Edgar.

Erbs Mill Park - Mike stated that nothing will be done until spring. The Township has contracted with Land Concepts to do a planting plan and when completed, the plan will be presented to the STC for their review and comment.

Document Township properties for potential planting sites: Mark Eberle explained the idea was to review reforestation of township property by identifying areas on township property, delineate them on a map and have projects ready for grants when funding becomes available. Mark stated he reviewed Prophecy Creek and outlined a few areas to reforest, P1, P2 and P3 and the calculation of all three areas is about a three-acre project. The idea is that each STC would pick a park or two, make a simple map to calculate some acreage and then put it together in a spreadsheet.

Mark prioritized the locations by choosing areas with low hanging fruit, all mowed grass, and easy access. Any project of this nature would need a deer fence for 3-5 years. It was Mike's opinion that the area Mark identified as P3 would be the best planting site location.

Mark suggested that every STC member outline a park. Edgar and Andy volunteered to look at the Armentrout Preserve and Vince volunteered to look at the Wertz tract.

Mike noted that John Casani and Vince Marrocco are now participating on the STC zoom meeting.

Edgar asked Vince if he would be willing to serve with Tim on a subcommittee regarding the Heritage Tree Program and the heritage registry within the program and Vince agreed to do so.

Turnpike Corridor Reforestation Township Gateway Plantings

Edgar advised that the two-year maintenance plan for the Jolly Road site has been completed.

Edgar expressed his concern that the area was mowed back very heavily and be better if left 12 inches higher. Mike noted that this area is contracted out but he would send an email to the contractor about the height of the grass cut. Edgar will walk the area and report back to the STC.

Mark noted he found two potential granting sources but that it is a very involved and time consuming process. At the request of Supervisor Keller, Mark will send her the links to the grants in question and she will send an email to the Township Manager and Assistant Manager.

Whitpain Township Canopy Restoration

Discussion: Should we request budget support from Supervisors to restore 1 acre each year until canopy goal of 40% is achieved?

Mike explained the budget planning starts in July and he suggested that the STC write a letter to the Board of Supervisors outlining their request for additional funding. Supervisor Keller concurred and recommended that the letter be done soon.

Edgar will prepare draft a letter and present it to the STC at the next meeting for their review.

Tree Ordinances

Mike stated he is waiting to hear back from Jason Lubar. Vince noted that the offices were closed but are reopening now and Mike should get a response soon.

Deer Management for Canopy Health

Deer and Wildlife Committee Update

Comments for Celia regarding updates to Deer Management narrative

Mike stated that he and Kurt Baker are working on a letter regarding deer management, and they will present the recommendation to the Deer and Wildlife Committee on November 20th for review and approval.

Edgar noted that Celia is working on the final draft of the STC's narrative. Edgar advised he had one comment regarding the graph which just shows trees getting bigger. He asked the STC members to send any comments or recommendations to his attention.

Township Parks (Continued)

Erbs Mill Park – John Casani reported that Land Concepts is preparing a landscape and planting plan and neighbors will be providing their input. John asked Kurt Baker to be part of those discussions with the neighbors and Kurt agreed.

Current Development Projects for Review

No matters for discussion

Whitpain Wire Topics for 2022

Free Street Tree Planting

John agreed to review the current Free Street Planting application, and make sure the narrative included requiring homeowners to take care of the trees.

Open Floor

- Debbie Miller introduced herself and expressed her interest in the Committee.
- Supervisor Keller recommended that a supervisor be present at every STC meeting and the STC unanimously agreed. Supervisor Keller will present this to the Board of Supervisors.
- Mike requested that the STC June 1st meeting be moved to June 15th and the STC agreed.

STC Future Meeting Schedule for 2022

All meetings will be the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm.

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, February 2, 2022.

2022

February 2nd

March 2nd

April 6th

May 4th

June 15th (date change)

July (NO MEETING)

August (NO MEETING)

September 7th

October 5th

November (NO MEETING)

December 7th

Adjournment:

By a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm

