



Shade Tree Commission January 7, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 7, 2026

Location: Township Meeting Room

Members Present: Edgar David, John Casani, Andrew P. Meehan, and Mark Eberle

Alternate Members: Allison Pearce

Student Member: Albert He

Supervisor Liaison: Joyce Keller

Township Liaison: Malcolm Smith

Other Attendees: Lexi McKinney (Program Administrator)

Members Absent: Vince Marrocco, Nilza Lozada (Alternate Member), and Rebecca Bevich (Alternate Member)

Welcome New Member

Ms. Pearce was welcomed to the Shade Tree Commission as its newest alternate member.

Election of STC Officers for 2026

Mr. Casani was appointed temporary chair for the 2026 Shade Tree Commission reorganization.

Mr. David nominated Mr. Eberle for Chair of the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Eberle accepted the nomination. With no other nominations the motion was moved by Mr. Meehan, seconded by Mr. Casani. With all members voting "Aye", Mr. Eberle was elected Chair of the Shade Tree Commission for 2026.

Mr. David nominated Mr. Casani for Vice Chair of the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Casani declined the nomination. Mr. David and Mr. Meehan said they are both not interested in the position.

It was moved by Mr. Meehan, seconded by Mr. Casani to table appointing a Vice Chair of the Shade Tree Commission for 2026 until the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Review Minutes of December 3rd, 2025

It was moved by Mr. Meehan, seconded by Chair Eberle, to approve December 3, 2025, minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Native Tree Giveaway 2026

The date of the 2026 Native Tree Giveaway is Sunday, April 26. Mr. David confirmed that he will still place the tree order. This order will consist of 465 trees to be given to residents. Mr. David has reached out to Tree Authority to get a quote for an additional person to assist in offloading the trees. The cost is an additional \$225.

Chair Eberle made a motion to increase the budget for the Native Tree Giveaway. Mr. David seconded the motion, with all voting "Aye", the motion passed unanimously. Mr. David will provide an updated list of the tree species for the giveaway.

Supervisor Keller proposed the idea for increasing flowering trees for the giveaway to accommodate yard sizes.

Supervisor Keller and Chair Eberle shared the idea that this year the goal is to advertise the tree species for the giveaway with descriptions and pictures of the trees to promote in the Whitpain Wire.

Supervisor Keller asked Mr. He if he can create this eye catching graphics on Canva for the Whitpain Wire articles,



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Mr. Marrocco will provide descriptions of the species and Supervisor Keller will provide pictures. The plan is to start this promotion mid-March, sharing 2 species a week and then recapping all the species.

Mr. Meehan will be at Prophecy Creek the day before the giveaway to help unload and inspect trees. Mr. David will coordinate the delivery as it gets closer to the date.

Street Tree Planting Program

Mr. Casani shared a recap on the 2025 Street Tree Planting Program. It was another successful year. The budget was for 20 trees; the program has maxed out for the past 2 years. The option of increasing the budget for the Street Tree Planting Program in 2027 was discussed.

Canopy Restoration Program

Mr. David reached out to Davey Tree regarding a Zoom/Google Meet during the next meeting for a presentation and to go over any questions. Davey Tree can call into the Zoom meeting or come in person to present this at the February 2026 Shade Tree Commission Meeting.

Mr. David circulated a list of questions, and he will be sharing this list with Davey Tree. Mr. Smith will resend over the documents from the canopy restoration study.

Chair Eberle says at the February 2026 meeting after review of the January 2026 meeting minutes the presentation can take place.

Mr. Smith shared that this is no update for the Tree Ordinance review. Supervisor Keller also does not have an update but shares that Mr. Richino is doing everything he can to push this along.

Whitpain Township Heritage Tree Program

Mr. Meehan shared how a lot of these trees are gone due to their age. There is a hard time getting nominations for this program.

Former member Mr. Knowles put a number of these trees on Google Maps. Mr. Smith will reach out to Mr. Knowles to gain information on this process and then connect with a member of STC that wants to take over this process.

Ideas were brainstormed of competitions with local schools to create artwork or photography of trees. It was also mentioned that this could be a partnership between STC and ACC.

Invasive Species Proposed Ordinance

Members looked over the Invasive Species Ordinance prepared by Mr. David. Chair Eberle suggests that with the complexity of the ordinance that this be given to the ordinance committee instead.

Supervisor Keller says it has been a while since this committee met but that invasive species will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. David discusses a subcommittee to STC to look over the ordinance. Ms. Pearce and Mr. David will be working



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on looking over the ordinance together and developing it further.

Supervisor Keller shares that there should be educating on invasive species in the Wire. Members began discussing ways in which to spread awareness on invasive species rather than the invasive species proposed ordinance in forms of education.

Whitpain Wire

Supervisor Keller and Chair Eberle have met and discussed Shade Tree Commission articles in the Whitpain Wire. Mr. David shared his list of old articles.

STC and the 250 Year Celebration

The idea of holding a planting from STC in celebration of America 250 was discussed.

Other Business

-Open Floor

Chair Eberle will be reaching out to Shady Grove Elementary about doing another tree planting this year. A STC volunteer is needed to reach out to other schools such as Blue Bell Elementary to set up a tree planting.

Mr. Smith reminds members of the Community Partnership line item in the budget. This is \$5000 and could be used for things such as tree plantings at the local schools.

The date for the Earth Day Celebration is Thursday, April 16.

STC Future Meeting Schedule

All meetings will be on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30PM unless otherwise noted.

-February 4th

-March 4th

-April 1st

-May 6th

-June 3rd

-July – No Meeting

-August – No Meeting

-September 2nd

-October 7th

-November – No Meeting

-December 2nd

Adjournment

With no other comments, Chair Eberle motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:58PM. All voting "Aye," the motion



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passed unanimously to adjourn.