



SHADE TREE COMMISSION
March 2, 2022
MINUTES

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 5:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting – *Zoom*

Members Present: Edgar David, Andrew P. Meehan, Celia Cameron, Vince Marrocco, John Casani (arrived late)

Alternate Members: Mark Eberle, Timothy Knowles and Nilza Lozado

Board of Supervisors Liaison: Joyce Keller

Township Liaison: Mike Richino

Minutes: Angela Caramenico

In the absence of John Casani, Tim Knowles and Nilza Lozado temporarily served as voting members for this meeting.

Annual STC Appointments:

The floor was opened for nominations.

Edgar nominated Vince Marrocco as Vice Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission and Celia seconded the nomination. Vince accepted the nomination and by unanimous vote, Vince Marrocco was appointed as Vice Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission for 2022.

Edgar nominated Celia Cameron as Secretary of the Shade Tree Commission and Mark seconded the nomination. Celia accepted the nomination and by unanimous vote, Celia Cameron was appointed as Secretary of the Shade Tree Commission for 2022.

Review Minutes of February 2, 2022

It was moved by Andy Meehan, seconded by Celia Cameron, all voting “Aye”, to approve the February 2, 2022, Shade Tree Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

STC Budget Review

There were no comments on the Shade Tree budget.

Earth Day Events

Supervisor Keller stated she would be attending the Earth Day celebration. Mark, Tim, and Nilza volunteered to help with the contest review and John Casani will be leading the program. The contest information will be available for pick up at Mike’s office on March 11th and needs to be reviewed and returned by March 18th.

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

Edgar noted he reviewed the tree order with the Authority, and they are giving the township a price at wholesale, which is better than previously.

Andy advised that he and John looked into different types of deer protection one is the use of a wrap with zip ties. He noted that this method is a bit more costly, and it may be too late to order them for this year. Andy stated he would contact the company to get prices and availability.

Edgar noted that there is only \$250 allotted in the budget for this item. Mike stated if we come under budget with the tree purchase, we may be able to allot that money to the deer protection if needed.

The Free Tree give away program will go back to the original format. Andy added that the mulch is in stock and ready to be picked up. He stated he will take care of picking it up and unloading the 225 bags.

Mark questioned the role of the STC at this event. Mike explained that some STC members will help to guide the people to the plant area to pick their selection and others will help carry the trees and the mulch. Edgar noted there are 450 container plants with 175 flowering trees, so residents can take up to three trees and one flowering tree.

John questioned if there could be a more organized approach on how to distribute the trees and he agreed to help control the line of people. Mike noted the newly formed EAC may be in attendance as well as the Rotary. He added that he will do some signs and Vince will write a description of the plants if needed. Edgar will provide Vince with a copy of the list of trees. This is a rain or shine event.

This item will be discussed at the next STC meeting.

Free Street Tree Planting Program

Edgar advised the target for this program is 20 trees. John will work on promoting this program at the Tree Give Away event. John stated the Free Street Tree Planting Program form is not updated yet, but he will do so. Regarding the door hangers containing information on watering the trees etc., the intent is for John to drop off a door hanger while doing an inspection of the trees after they have been planted.

Township Parks

Centre Square: Edgar commented that Morris Arboretum is working on the proposal.

Mermaid: No updates.

Prophecy Creek – Edgar did a screen share showing potential sites at Prophecy Creek Park that can be used as planting sites. Mark noted the next step would be to meet with Kurt Baker and walk the site with him. Edgar and Mark will share the diagram with Kurt and schedule a meeting with him.

Turnpike Corridor Reforestation Township Gateway Plantings

Mark identified two potential granting sources and forwarded that information to Supervisor Keller. Supervisor Keller stated she would reach out to the Township Manager.

Whitpain Township Canopy Restoration

Edgar advised he revised the letter to include the comments from the last meeting. Celia stated she will give it a final edit.

It was Mike's opinion that the letter should first be sent to Roman and Dave for their review and if no comment, it will go in the packet for the Board of Supervisors.

Tree Ordinance

Mike spoke with Morris Arboretum, and the hope is to have a meeting in March. Vince and Mark will also participate.

Wildlife Management Committee

Mike noted that John stepped down from the Committee due to previous commitments.

Mike further noted that he made the revisions to the letter concerning deer management and presented it along with supporting documentation to Roman for his review. If no comment from Roman, it will go in the packet for the Board of Supervisors.

Grant Opportunities

Mike advised that the Township now has a staff member, Greg Monte, and grants are now part of his job description. Greg has been instructed to look at some grant possibilities for the STC.

Whitpain Township Heritage Tree Program

Tim explained that the Township has more than enough points to get the Growth Award even without the Heritage Registry Program. Mike clarified that the Township has enough points for this year but noted that the points vary from year to year depending on the programs. Tim did a screen share and showed that 4 townships have a Heritage Program but only Montgomery Township is active. He stated that our code just says to maintain and update a registry. It was agreed that Mike should remove the Heritage Tree Program from the website. Edgar and Tim will review the list format.

Whitpain Wire Topics for 2022

- Free Street Planting Program with a link to the application form
- Edgar will talk to Dave M. about future topics

Open Floor

- Mike stated that according to Tom Farzetta, the maintenance agreement for the turnpike planting has expired. Edgar will contact Tom and provide some recommendations for future maintenance.
- Mike will move forward to replant three hickory trees this spring.
- John questioned the plan for in person meetings and Supervisor Keller stated that all BoS meetings will remain hybrid at this time. Celia noted that she can only do hybrid.
- Mike noted the date change for the June STC meeting to June 15th

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, April 6, 2022.

2022

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 6:53 pm