



SHADE TREE COMMISSION
April 6, 2022
MINUTES

Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at 5:30 pm

Location: ZOOM Conference or Township Meeting Room

Members Present: Edgar David, Andrew P. Meehan, Celia Cameron and John Casani

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 Vince Marrocco, Mark Eberle acted as a voting member.

Review of Agenda

No comments on the agenda

Review Minutes of March 2, 2022

Edgar requested that the minutes be amended to reflect that he was in contact with the Tree Authority regarding the Free Street Give Away. It was moved by John Casani, seconded by Mark Eberle, all voting “Aye”, to approve the March 2, 2022, Shade Tree Meeting Minutes with the change as noted. Motion passed 5-0.

Earth Day Events

Earth Day is April 21, 2022. John and Mike noted that everything went well with the contest review.

Edgar suggested adding a photo contest for next year and Supervisor Keller concurred. She will reach out to the high school and see if any interest on their part for next year’s Earth Day as well as for this year’s Fall harvest festival.

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

Edgar spoke with the Tree Authority regarding the delivery of the plants. Residents can get 3 trees in total, with one being a flowering tree.

Mike noted that the tree protection was a bit more expensive than the wrap but was still within budget.

Mike stated that the Blue Bell Rotary will have 6-9 volunteers in attendance.

John Casani will work at the check in area to control the flow of people and Edgar, Mark and Andy will be tree captains. It was noted that this program will go back to its original format.

Mike will order some shirts, etc. for the STC members. He requested that the members be there at 7:30 am, with a start time of 8:00 am. Chalk will be used to identify the species.

Free Street Tree Planting Program

John stated 8 applications came in and all were passed on to the contractor for install. John and Mark made some changes to the application which included spreading out the information to two pages, updating the species to show all are native species and adding Mike’s contact information. John shared his screen to show the updated application.

It was moved by Edgar, seconded by Andy, all voting “Aye”, to approve the revised Free Street Planting application form as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

John will have copies of the application available at the Free Tree Give Away.

Whitpain Township Heritage Tree Program

The STC agreed that the digital list will be taken down from the website, but the application would stay on the website. Vince and Tim will review the matter in more detail.

Township Parks

Centre Square: Mike and Kurt will set up a site meeting with Jason from Morris Arboretum.

Prophecy Creek: Mark did a screen share. Prophecy Park is approximately 82 acres, and it was his opinion that there are about 12-14 acres available for reforestation. Mike noted that the Upland forest area cannot be included but the meadow next to it can be included for reforestation and it is a larger area than the Upland forest area. Mark noted the next site for review will be Armentrout.

Whitpain Township Canopy Restoration

Mark and Edgar are working on a maintenance narrative for reforestation projects at the Jolly Road site. Mike noted that it went to Roman, and it will be put in the proposed budget for the Supervisors review.

Tree Ordinance

Mark explained that the first meeting was held and there was good discussion. Supervisor Keller concurred and added that the meeting provided general information for the Township wants and needs.

In response to Nilza's question about the tree ordinance and new construction, Supervisor Keller explained that since commercial property is pretty much built out, the primary focus would be to get homeowners on board for planting more trees. Supervisor Keller added that usually when a developer takes down trees and cannot replace them, they pay a fee in lieu of which goes into the Open Space General Budget. She will speak to the Township Manager about some of that money going into the Shade Tree budget.

Nilza reported that her development lost 95% of their ash trees due to the ash bore disease. Supervisor Keller suggested that Nilza and her neighbors apply for the free street tree planting program. Mike emailed the application to the entire STC, and Nilza stated she would pass on the information to her neighbors. John noted that there are 20 trees total available.

Wildlife Management Committee

Mike stated he has been instructed to organize a town hall meeting regarding wildlife management in the township. He explained the intent is for an interactive meeting with the residents and representatives from the Township, Wissahickon Trails, the Delaware Wildlife Life Management Committee and possibly the Game Commission.

A discussion ensued about the pros and cons of wildlife management and whether it should be discussed at the STC meetings. It was moved by John Casani, seconded by Nilza Lozado, that the Wildlife Management Committee operate and work separately from the Shade Tree forum. A vote was taken, and the Motion passed as presented.

Open Floor

- Supervisor Keller reported that a Girl Scout Troop requested assistance from the STC to transplant one tree in a township park sometime in May, and the STC supported this request. Supervisor Keller will get more information and report back to the STC.
- John questioned why several trees in Steuer Woods were marked, and Mike explained they were probably targeted for possible removal when the playground was going in that site; however, since that plan has been changed, the markings should be meaningless.
- John expressed delight that several large trees were planted throughout the campus of the Stony Creek Elementary School
- Mike commented briefly on a Tree City /Tree Campus program - *This item will be discussed at the next STC meeting*

Whitpain Wire Topics for 2022

- Free Street Planting Program

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, May 4, 2022.

2022

May 4th

June 15^h

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 6:49 pm