

Lower Paxton Township SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2023

Members in Attendance

Tim Murphy
Rick Wain
John Whaley
Karl Valley

Members Absent

Austin Gee

Also in Attendance

Nick Gehret, Staff Liaison

ANNUAL REORGANIZATION

Chairman: Mr. Murphy was nominated by Mr. Whaley, seconded by Mr. Wain and unanimously approved.

Vice Chairman: Mr. Whaley was nominated by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Wain, and unanimously approved.

Meeting Dates and Times: The Shade Tree Commission will continue to meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:00 pm. Mr. Gehret noted corrections to the reappointment letters and will request an update to the calendar on the Township website.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Murphy called the regular meeting to order at 4:12 pm on the above date in the Conference Room of the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg.

MINUTES

Mr. Valley made a motion to approve the November 22, 2022 meeting minutes, as amended. Mr. Whaley seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Tree Inspections

Mr. Valley received an email from Bill Miller regarding the ash tree at the intersection of Colonial Club Drive and Tee Road, Ranger Road, and Catherine Street is leaning more than before. It is pretty low to the street that a larger vehicle would probably hit it. It is only about 10 inches in diameter. Mr. Gehret can check to see if it is lower than the minimum and will ask Public Works to remove it. Mr. Valley offered to help cut.

Mr. Whaley commented that there have been a lot of trees that came down on Nyes Road. Mr. Gehret noted that fallen trees are cut up enough to clear the road but never removed. He added that their priority is to clear the lane of traffic, but they do not always have a good clean-up operation afterwards.

Mr. Valley added that there is a second area that Bill Miller brought up: Colonial Road between Old Colonial and Goose Valley Roads. There are trees on private property that fell onto the roadway. They have been pushed to clear the traffic lane, but they are blocking the berm. Miller's suggestion is that the homeowner has the responsibility to clean it up and not the State or Township. Mr. Gehret stated that a fallen tree in someone's yard is not something the Township can force the cleanup.

Street Tree Planting Guide

Mr. Whaley asked the status of the planting guide they had been working on. Mr. Gehret thinks it is part of the document about approved species. If that is the case, then it is with Mr. Gee who is working on the overall document layout.

Approved Species List

Mr. Gehret stated that Mr. Gee is working on the layout and photos.

NEW BUSINESS

2023 Plans

There were about 4-6 trees at the basin area of the Friendship YMCA that will need to be removed in the Spring.

Mr. Valley suggested visiting each LP park and marking the Tree of Heaven. Once they are identified, the Public Works Department may be able to remove them. Mr. Gehret will check with Tim Nolt to see if that is a project he would like to start. He would also like to check with Rachelle Scott about the project since it is in the Parks.

To make the best use of the spray, you need to hack-and-squirt, let it die, then the trees can be cut down. Fall is best time of year for this activity because the tree roots are drawing nutrients in. Rocky Gleason may be interested in helping again if needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT & COMMISSIONERS COMMENT

Mr. Gehret reported that the Shade Tree Commission's budget was approved as usual. There will also be a plan for review in the next few months.

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Murphy noted the next Shade Tree Commission meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

With no additional business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Hiner, Recording Secretary