

Lower Paxton Township SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2023

Members in Attendance

Karl Valley Rick Wain
John Whaley Austin Gee
Tim Murphy

Members Absent

Also in Attendance

Nick Gehret, Staff Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm on the above date in the Conference Room of the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg.

MINUTES

Mr. Wain made a motion to approve the January 23, 2023 meeting minutes, as amended. Mr. Valley seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Tree Inspections

No inspections were requested by Township residents this month.

Colonial & Tee Roads

Mr. Valley sent photos of the tree to the members to review and Mr. Gehret stated he did some research and believes the trees are not on the homeowner's property. He will discuss with Tim Nolt prior to contacting the homeowner. The intersection is peculiar so it needs to be looked at. It is from a development from 1957.

General Consideration for Planting Trees

Mr. Whaley has worked on this document and adapting it to Lower Paxton to help residents understand how to plant a tree. Once complete it can go hand in hand with the Approved Species List. He asked the members to review and discuss recommendations at a future meeting. Mr. Gee will also continue to work on the Approved Species List and will email it to the others for their review.

Mr. Murphy noticed that it requires tree plantings within the right-of-way. Mr. Gehret commented that the trees are generally allowed to be planted within the front yard since the utilities are now located in the tree lawn underground.

NEW BUSINESS

2023 Arbor Day

The seedlings have to be ordered by March 20th so they can be ready to pick up 4/20 or 4/21. Members reviewed dates and agreed on April 25, which could also be their monthly meeting. They also reviewed the selections and decided on Eastern White Norway noting that it is a native species.

Mr. Gehret suggested having the event at a location where a daycare or kindergarten can participate. He suggested the Friendship YMCA since there are trees that need to be replaced there. The Colonial Park UCC operates a daycare and may be able to walk to the Friendship Y. Mr. Whaley suggested Heroes Grove. Mr. Gehret agreed that would be a great location and will check with Rachelle Scott about where trees can go around or above where the concession stand was just built. When the elementary schools were involved, the time of the ceremony had to work around school schedules and bus availability, so Mr. Gehret will also find out what time is good for the group that participates.

The members agreed to plant an Acer Sunset Maple tree for this years Arbor Day tree.

LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW TAKE FIVE SERVICE STATION

Members reviewed the landscaping proposed on the land development plan. The location is a small parcel in front of Lowe's Home Improvement Store. Mr. Whaley will review this week in the office so he can research the availability and other details.

PUBLIC COMMENT & COMMISSIONERS COMMENT

Mr. Murphy mentioned that the Penn State Extension held a webinar "Finding solutions to tree/sidewalk conflicts". There was discussion about how to avoid removal of existing trees and ways to retrofit sidewalks and not remove the trees, such as jogging the sidewalk around a tree, copper mesh root barrier or plastic-ridged root barriers, hinged expansion joints, and steel plates to bridge across the roots. He did ask if there was grant money to help with these things but they didn't have an answer so probably not. It seems like the ones around here that need attention are too far gone to do well. Mr. Murphy will share the handouts provided.

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Murphy noted the next Shade Tree Commission meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. With no additional business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Hiner, Recording Secretary