

Lower Paxton Township SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2023

Members in Attendance

Karl Valley
John Whaley
Tim Murphy
Rick Wain

Members Absent

Austin Gee

Also in Attendance

Nick Gehret, Staff Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 4:03 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 February 28, 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.

Catherine & Tee Roads Mr. Gehret stated that the tree is definitely in the Township right-of-way and he will ask Public Works to take a look at it.

2023 Arbor Day

The 2023 Arbor Day is set for April 26th at 1:30pm, at Heroes Grove, 5010 Commons Drive. The preschool class from Colonial Park UCC will attend the ceremony. There are about 21 students in the class and their parents will be invited. Mr. Gehret asked members to visit the site to select a planting location so Ms. Scott can approve it. Mr. Gehret invited Andy Brought, and he will try to attend. The Sunset Maple is ordered, as well as 40 Eastern White Pine seedlings. The next meeting is 4/25 so that is the best time to pot the seedlings and prep the gift bags. Mr. Whaley asked to have the handout for the seedlings ready to give to the kids. Mr. Murphy asked if the students will be participating with a song or activity. In the past, the attendees were fourth graders, and these are preschoolers. Mr. Gehret will offer the opportunity to Ms. Bender. Mr. Valley commented that one year the students drew pictures of “skies of blue, trees of green, red roses too”, and other references to the lyrics of Louis Armstrong’s song “What a Wonderful World”. Over the years many of the children have done some creative things.

General Consideration for Planting Trees

Mr. Whaley asked for feedback on the document. Mr. Wain thought it looked good and will go well with the document that Mr. Gee is working on. The approved list can still be made available and as the Gees get the document designed it can be updated for the public or developers to use.

Mr. Murphy suggested a few changes so that the information in this document matches the Township ordinances, and a spelling correction, and a few wording suggestions. He also would like to add “cyclists” to the paragraph talking about pruning limbs to allow enough clearance to accommodate vehicles and cyclists. Mr. Valley edited some capitalization.

Mr. Murphy questioned the section talking about spacing for street trees. Mr. Gehret explained that there are two parts to the section: first is one tree for every 50 linear feet of frontage, and this is to determine the number of trees that are required. The second is saying the spacing is to be a minimum of 30 feet from center so the street trees are spaced sufficiently on the lot. The SALDO goes further to say that the maximum is 75 feet apart, to accommodate for driveways and other things along the frontage.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

There were no plans to be reviewed.

PUBLIC COMMENT & COMMISSIONERS COMMENT

Mr. Murphy noted that there are fewer requests for tree inspections or for help with planting or replacing trees in the right-of-way. Members noted it might be because of the cost of tree removal in recent years. Mr. Gehret added that most of the calls he receives are asking the Township to remove or pay for removal of a tree, and when they find out it is the homeowner’s responsibility, they are no longer interested in removing it.

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Murphy noted the next Shade Tree Commission meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. At this meeting members will plant seedlings and prep handouts for Arbor Day. With no additional business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:35.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Hiner, Recording Secretary