

Lower Paxton Township SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2022

Members in Attendance

Karl Valley
Rick Wain
John Whaley
Austin Gee

Members Absent

Tim Murphy

Also in Attendance

Nick Gehret, Staff Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Valley called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm on the above date in the Conference Room of the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg.

MINUTES

Mr. Whaley made a motion to approve the April 26, 2022 meeting minutes, as corrected. Mr. Wain seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Approved Species List

After reviewing the list last month, Mr. Whaley continued to work on the trees to include. Mr. Murphy emailed some suggestions and Mr. Wain agreed with those comments. Designing the document like a handout rather than a spreadsheet list will be easier for residents to use and understand. Mr. Valley commented that columnar trees are a type of tree that will be useful in this area, so he was glad to see them included.

Mr. Gee asked if the recommended trees are native. Mr. Whaley noted that “native” is a misleading term because many native trees were brought here from somewhere but have been here for many years so they are accepted as native. Mr. Wain noted that the balance of finding a tree that fits the location and is native may be tricky. Mr. Whaley noted that some trees that people are told to avoid can be too general because there are varieties that are created to be improved for certain situations, so one variety of a species may be fine and one might be problematic. The tree lawn or the planting width is important, as well as underground or overhead utilities.

Mr. Valley asked if this document will be printed and available for residents or developers. Mr. Whaley stated it should be, and added that commercial plans will still need to be reviewed on a case by case basis because plans can vary so much.

Mr. Whaley asked members to review it to see if there are any trees that should be added or removed. The list can be discussed again next month. If the list is good at that point, he will then add in photos and diagrams, and information about each tree.

2022 Arbor Day: Review

Mr. Gehret stated that there were 6 or so people that attended, and all of the seedings have been distributed.

NEW BUSINESS

Tree Inspections

Mr. Wain noted that Norm's tree is doing well and leafing out nicely. He will prune it next time he goes by and will wait another month or so to remove the supports.

No inspections were requested this month.

**PUBLIC COMMENT &
COMMISSIONERS COMMENT**

Mr. Whaley shared some photos of an Arbor Day when the school still brought the 4th graders to the celebration. The tree planted that year is the one in the front right corner of this Township building.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wain noted the next Shade Tree Commission meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2022, at 4 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Hiner,
Recording Secretary

FIND PHOTOS