

Lower Paxton Township SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes June 28, 2022

Members in Attendance

Tim Murphy
Rick Wain
John Whaley
Austin Gee
Karl Valley (*late arrival*)

Members Absent

Also in Attendance

Nick Gehret, Staff Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 4:02 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 May 24, 2022 meeting minutes, as corrected. Mr. Wain seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Approved Species List

Mr. Whaley has continued to work on the list of trees to include, and grouped them by mature height. He would like the other members to review the list in case there are any that should be included or any that should be removed. Then he will add information and a color photo of each one.

Mr. Whaley also presented a handout that addresses planting trees in different locations or uses. He asked the other members their opinion regarding adding this to the document. He added that the most important thing for plantings will be the location, and he would like to promote the use of single trunk upright varieties. Mr. Murphy noted there are some nice Red Buds in his neighborhood that have grown in nicely. Mr. Whaley agreed and will look to see if they are available locally as a single trunk.

Members agreed the list of trees is good as is, and agreed the list of general considerations is important to include with the list.

The information can be put on the website so it is useable and printable, and it can be shared with the public. Mr. Gehret asked for the information and the photos, and the staff can format it so it can be viewed online and printed nicely.

NEW BUSINESS

Plan Review:

Screening at Cider Press Station

Mr. Gehret stated the landscape plan isn't ready for review, but he would like input regarding a vegetative buffer that they want to install between the rear yard of several homes in the neighboring community (Union Station) and the walking trail that will be installed with this development. The existing residents were concerned with having people walking near their backyards. A fence was requested, but arborvitae is shown on the revised plan. Arborvitae is discouraged because it is a weak-stemmed shrub. This buffer is not required under any landscape, screening, or buffering requirements in the Ordinance.

Members discussed ongoing maintenance, deer damage, tree shape, availability, and disease. The planting space is 10 feet wide. Mr. Wain suggested looking into another kind of evergreen, and Mr. Murphy suggested some kind of shrub. Mr. Wain suggested two varieties of evergreens if trees are planted. An evergreen hedge would be softer than a fence. Mr. Whaley suggested hew trimmed as a hedge mixed with holly or hemlock, and Mr. Valley suggested Hetzi Juniper if it is shaped as it grows.

The residents want fencing there, and the developer is willing to do something, but the Township doesn't have the ability to regulate it since this is not required by the ordinance. Mr. Whaley noted that a fence paired with evergreens would be best so if there is any issue with the trees, the fence will still be there permanently. Once the development is complete, the developer passes the maintenance on to the homeowners association.

Tree Inspections

No inspections were requested this month.

PUBLIC COMMENT & COMMISSIONERS COMMENT

There was no public comment or commissioner comment offered.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wain noted the next Shade Tree Commission meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2022, at 4 p.m. Members will prepare for National Night Out at that meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Hiner,
Recording Secretary