

Lower Paxton Township SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2022

Members in Attendance

Tim Murphy
Rick Wain
John Whaley
Austin Gee

Members Absent

Karl Valley

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. Whaley made a motion to approve the June 28, 2022 meeting minutes, as corrected. Mr. Wain seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Approved Species List

Mr. Whaley stated he gave the draft information to Mr. Gehret so that Staff can work on the layout and formatting so it can be put on the website and in print for residents and developers to reference.

NEW BUSINESS

National Night Out for Public Safety

August 2nd 2022, Tuesday, 5-8pm. The large tent with tables will not be provided for vendors this year.

Supplies needed: 2 tables, Shade Tree Banner; Tree City USA Banner; Canopy; Twine or zip-ties to attach the banners to the canopy or tables; tape and scissors. Each person should bring their own chair.

Handouts and Info Pamphlets: Spotted Lanternfly info, Emerald Ash Borer.

Mr. Gehret has gathered the goodies already on-hand to be sorted, then the members sorted the items and prepped them for the evening.

Members can meet at the Township Building at 3:30pm to load a vehicle with supplies, or meet at George Park at 4:00pm.

As in past years, the Shade Tree Commission will forego the August regular meeting.

Tree Inspections

Annual Tree Inspection

Members will gather at 2:30 to perform the annual inspection of 1/5 of the Township. Once complete, a regular meeting will take place afterwards.

<<Find the list of areas, rotation schedule, add to attendance doc or save somewhere>>

Mr. Whaley asked what sort of response rate staff gets from the information sent to residents from this inspection. Mr. Gehret stated it is probably about 30%, and the underlying issue is the Ordinance conflicts with Policy, but making them aware is enough to Other issues are liability and

No inspections were requested this month.

Towns at Forest Hills

Cherry Trees in the Right-of-Way

Mr. Gehret stated that the HOA president is asking how to get the trees replaced because one has died. They wanted to know whose responsibility it is to replace it. The initial thought is that if they were not required as part of the land development plan, then no one is required to replace them, but being in the right-of-way, the Shade Tree Commission can make recommendations if requested.

Questions: Were these planted by the STC? The trees by Weis were, but how far up Colonial Road did the STC plant trees? When was the development built and were any required street trees installed.

Issues: Mr. Wain noted that the tree lawn for the trees near Weis is about 3 feet wide, which isn't wide enough to support these trees. The weather and road salt has taken a toll on them.

Past Practice: When the STC planted trees as a project or coordinated a planting with grant money, the members would make contact with residents abutting the tree lawn where the trees would be going first. They would inform them of what was being planted and ask for input if there were choices offered. They let them know the Township would do certain things initially, and give them information regarding watering the trees and basic care. If there were no abutting homeowners then no contact was needed. The liaison would schedule time to plant the trees with help from public works for equipment and labor and the commission members for labor and guidance. The next regular meeting date after the planting, the Shade Tree members would meet there and mulch/tend to the trees. The Shade Tree Commission would then mulch and trim the trees 1-2 more times before the homeowners took over full responsibility. This was usually once per year for the next year or two.

<<check this info with Karl>>

**PUBLIC COMMENT &
COMMISSIONERS COMMENT**

Nothing additional was offered.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Murphy noted the next Shade Tree Commission meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2022, at 4 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Hiner,
Recording Secretary