

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
July 23, 2020

The Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission met in a regular monthly meeting at 7:00 PM. via the Zoom Virtual Conferencing Program. Present at the meeting were: Commission Chair Mrs. Breen, Commission Vice-Chair Ms. Ponce, Mr. Pryzblinski, and Mr. Bell. Staff liaison Mr. Ford was also present.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion made and the minutes for the June 25, 2020 meeting were approved.

Old Business

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY TREATMENT

Ms. Ponce initiated a discussion on obtaining the equipment needed to continuously treat Township property for SLF and the possible purchase of that equipment by the Township. The benefits of purchasing versus selective treatment was explored.

STREET TREE REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT REGULATIONS

Resident Dan Zlotolow, addressed the Commission to express his concern over the loss of large Heritage Trees in the Township. Mr. Zlotolow expressed his desire that the Commission draft/advocate for the creation of new protections for trees. Mr. Pryzblinski, a founding member of the Commission, offered historical insight on past efforts by the Commission and Township to maintain an effective tree ordinance. The burden placed on homeowners was a significant concern in the past. He also expressed the importance of education to reinforce the efforts of the Commission and the value of trees in the Springfield Twp. Community.

Sample tree ordinances from other communities were reviewed and discussed to serve as the basis for a draft tree ordinance for Springfield Township. Mr. Bell voiced his support for a new ordinance based on size, but expressed concern over how such a new law would be enforced. Several members suggested the idea of registering Arborists/Tree Care Specialists that operate in the Township. Mr. Zlotolow informed the Commission that Abington is exploring the creation of a Heritage Tree Ordinance and Commissioner Lee suggested that the Commission review Whitemarsh Township regulations pertaining to trees.

New Business

The Commission tabled a discussion on Arbor Day activities. Mr. Bell requested that the Commission visit each of the Township Parks to develop a prioritization plan for trees.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Ford
Assistant to the Manager