

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 25, 2021

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: Mrs. Breen, Ms. Corley, and Mr. Bell. Commission members Mr. Pryzblinski and Ms. Ponce were absent.

Commissioner liaison Mr. Lee and Staff liaison Mr. Ford were also present.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the Jan. 28, 2021 meeting. All in favor. Motion passes.

New Business

TREE CITY CONFERENCE

Ms. Corley and Mr. Bell briefed the other members of the Commission regarding their attendance. An interest was shown to engage Dr. Rita Stephens, member of the Abington Shade Tree Commission and one of the speakers at the Conference, to inquire if she or the Abington STC would be interested in presented to the Springfield STC. Mr. Bell explained that the goal of such a presentation would be for the Springfield STC to learn from its neighbors to learn more about how other STC in the region function.

Commissioner and Township Update

Mrs. Lee and Ford provided an update on Township operations to the members. Topics included the Township's grant projects (Cisco, Mermaid, and Walnut Ave Trail), Tax Collector fee update, the hiring of a third party payroll company, the appointment of a new parks and recreation board member, and the hiring of a new police officer. The Township Spring/Summer Newsletter will arrive in mid to late March.

Old Business

SEED EXCHANGE / SEED LIBRARY

Ms. Corley provided an update of a project to partner with the Parks and Recreation Board to host a seed exchange. The idea has evolved to the creation of a physical "Seed Library" potentially to be located at the library. The other members expressed support for the project and encourage Ms. Corley to continue working with the P&R Board to flesh out the details for the project.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE (SALDO)

The Commission continued their review and revision of the landscaping standards as part of the proposed SALDO. Major topics of discussions included:

- Adding a purpose section to outline the intent of the landscaping standards as well as a definitions section to provide further clarify to terminology used. One definition of note was how Heritage Tree was defined in the ordinance.

- Mr. Bell suggested that the STC be consulted whenever a land developer submits funds to the Township as part of a payment in lieu of pertaining to the inability of said developer to replace removed trees at a site. Mr. Bell followed by expressing his desire to have the STC weigh in more directly on how those funds are used.
- Revising the credit schedule for preserved trees for each tree:
 - diameter of 30” of greater will be credited eight (8) trees, (originally 36”)
 - diameter between 18” to 29” will be credited six (6) trees, (originally 18-35”)
 - diameter between 12” to 17” will be credited four (4) trees,
 - diameter between 6” to 11” will be credited two (2) trees
- Including a requirement that developer ought to use native plant species for all plantings on site, referencing the most recent native plant species list available through the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Concluding with their comments, the STC agreed to review the edits in their entirety and vote to forward the revised landscaping standards to the Planning Commission for their consideration at the next STC meeting on March 25, 2021.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Ford
Assistant to the Manager