

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 23, 2023**

The Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission met for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 7:00 PM in the Free Library of Springfield Township, located at 8900 Hawthorne Lane in Wyndmoor, PA.

Present at the meeting were: Ms. Ponce, Ms. DePaul, Ms. Breen, Mssrs. Bell, Pryzblinski, and Schwartz. Township Assistant Manager Mr. Ford were also in attendance. Mr. Kowalski and Commissioner Maxwell were absent.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the following meetings: January 22, 2023. All in favor. Motion passes.

Tree Donation Requests

The Commission reviewed Spring 2023 Tree Donation Requests and Plantings received to date. A total of two tree donations have been received:

1. A Maple at Veterans Park
2. Donation confirmed but will circle back in Spring for tree/location availability.

Ms. Ponce suggested that future donations could be used to replace two dying dogwoods at Wyndhill Park.

Landscape Plan Reviews

The Shade Tree Commissioners reviewed recommendations submitted to the Springfield Township Planning Commission regarding the landscaping plan for 1110 Willow Grove Avenue in Wyndmoor. A total of four (4) recommendations were developed:

Recommendation 1. The Commission noted that given the abundance of existing impervious surfacing that is to be removed and replaced with greenspace/plantings, the developer should consider testing and amending the soil to a neutral pH level. Developed sites with an abundance of impervious surfacing tends to have higher pH-alkaline levels. Several of the native tree species listed in the plan (Pin and Red Oaks, and Red Maples) will not grow to an extended life in high alkaline soils.

Recommendation 2. The plan calls for numerous trees in the public right-of-way (ROW) with varying distances between the proposed trees along the frontage on Willow Grove Avenue and the front facades of the proposed townhomes. The Commission strongly believes that there is insufficient distance for healthy tree growth in front of units 11 and 12. The Commission suggests that the two trees located in front of units 11 and 12 be relocated to the frontage along Queen Street to provide adequate space for tree growth.

Recommendation 3. The Commission also suggests that the developer consider using a greater variety of tree species along the property’s frontage with Willow Grove Avenue. The current plan calls for a mix of two species (American Hornbeam and Green Pillar Pin Oak). Adding a third or fourth tree species to the frontage would promote greater tree health and minimize any damage should a tree disease/blight necessitate the removal of the proposed trees along Willow Grove Avenue.

Recommendation 4. The Commission urges the developer to adhere to tree spacing and well standards. The plan calls for a majority of the required tree plantings to occur along the back property line, abutting the residential properties on Pleasant Avenue. Members expressed concern over the close proximity of so many trees/shrubs and worry that insufficient space has been provided for healthy tree growth.

Old/New Business:

Arbor Day 2023

The Commission continued to review plans for Arbor Day 2023 (April, 29, 2023). Mr. Ford and Ms. DePaul confirmed that the thirty (30) trees to be given away have been ordered through Primex. The Commission members confirmed that they would like to repeat the use of the lottery system for the free tree giveaway.

The members also tasked Ms. DePaul and Mr. Ford with contacting Primex to obtain a white oak as the official Township Tree that would be planted as a demonstration on Arbor Day. It was also decided that the official tree would be planted in honor of former Commissioner Jeffrey Harbison. The tentative location of the official tree would be on the Township Campus. Proposed locations will be discussed at the March Shade Tree Commission meeting.

Shade Tree Commission Mission and Activity Review

The Commission discussed whether there was a need to revise their mission/founding ordinance. The Members decided that as long as the Commission was upholding its expected responsibilities, that a mission revision was not warranted.

Adjournment

With no other business, a motion was raised and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Ford
Assistant Township Manager
Springfield Township, Montco.