

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 23, 2019**

The Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission met in a regular monthly meeting at 7:00 PM. at the Free Library of Springfield Township. Present at the meeting were: Mr. Ferguson, Chair, Ms. Ponce, Vice-Chair, Ms. Breen, Mr. Pryzblinski, and Mr. Bell. Commissioner Liaison Mr. Lee and staff liaison Mr. Ford were also present.

Commission member Mr. Ferguson, Chair, was absent.

Election of 2020 Officers

Ms. Breen was nominated to serve as Chair. Upon acceptance of the nomination, a motion was made and seconded to appoint Ms. Breen as Chair of the Shade Tree Commission for 2020.

Ms. Ponce expressed an interest to continue serving as Vice-Chair. A motion was made and seconded to retain Ms. Ponce as Vice-Chair of the Shade Tree Commission.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion made and the minutes for the October 24, 2019 meeting of the Shade Tree Commission were approved by unanimous consent.

Commissioner and Township Update

Mssrs. Lee and Ford provided the Commission with an update on Township activities:

Mr. Lee was introduced as the new Board Liaison to the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Lee is the representative from the Township's 3rd Ward and replaces Mr. Maxwell as the designated Board liaison to the Shade Tree Commission;

The Board of Commissioners authorized the Historic Overlay Zoning District and details about the functions of the district and the new historic commission were discussed;

Mr. Ford explained the new year-round curbside leaf waste collection program, explaining that it would take place weekly on residents' regular collection day.

Progress on the Township's effort to acquire funding for the Mermaid Park Habitat and Restoration Project was shared. The question was asked as to whether it was possible to establish a "Friends of Mermaid Park" group to facilitate regular maintenance and care to the park. The Commission also inquired into the possibility of installing some sort of screen (perhaps tall grass) along the property line with the USDA facility to hide the razor fence. **The Commission requested that they be consulted for the selection of shade trees as part of the project.**

Old Business

ARBOR DAY

The Commission discussed the upcoming partnership with the EAC for a larger Arbor/Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 25, 2020.

Mr. Ford informed the members that he has been in contact with Primex regarding the acquisition of tree that the STC regularly gives away to registered residents. Primex shared that the typical order consists of 3 gal sized native species that are priced between \$25-30 and are usually 24-30” in size.

Available species for this year’s celebration include:

- Serviceberry - Amelanchier alnifolia 'Standing Ovation'
- River Birch - Betula nigra 'Heritage'
- Redbud - Cercis canadensis
- White Dogwood - Cornus florida Cherokee Princess
- Sweetbay Magnolia - Magnolia virginiana
- White Oak - Quercus alba
- Swamp White Oak - Quercus bicolor
- Scarlet Oak - Quercus coccinea

Mr. Bell expressed an interest is acquiring additional trees, particular a smaller variety of maple. The topic of whether sponsorships for Arbor Day should be pursued in order to offset costs and possibly increase the number of trees that are made available to the public. Mr. Pryzblinski conveyed his opposition to sponsorships, contending that commercialization should be avoided.

Rather than a sponsorship program, the idea of a dedication/memorialization program was explored. Ms. Breen asked Mr. Ford to explore other dedication/memorialization programs and share with the Commission next month. The Commission also tasked Mr. Ford to ask the Environmental Advisory Board to send a representative to the Feb. Shade Tree Meeting to plan Arbor Day. It was also decided that the Commission would select the number and type of trees in February.

COMMUNITY TREE INVENTORY

A field trip to the various parks was mentioned to determine the health of tree in public spaces. Adding a park/tree layer to the Township’s GIS program was also a topic of conversation.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Ford
Assistant to the Township Manager