

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
April 8, 2021**

The Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission met in a rescheduled meeting at 7:00 PM. via the Zoom Virtual Conferencing Program since the regular monthly meeting on March was adjourned due to a lack of quorum. Present at the meeting were: Mrs. Breen, Ms. Corley, and Mr. Bell. Commissioner Lee and commission members Mr. Pryzblinski and Ms. Ponce were absent.

Staff liaison Mr. Ford was also present.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the Feb. 25, 2021 meeting. All in favor. Motion passes.

New Business

FLOURTOWN SHOPPING CENTER

The Commission reviewed the landscaping plans for the proposed commercial development to be located within the Flourtown Shopping Center. After some discussion and deliberation, the Commission finalized three (3) recommendations:

Recommendation 1. That all non-native plants listed on the Plant Schedule and those plants included as part of the Landscape Plan be replaced with native plants from the DCNR recommended list. Invasive plants are a threat to local wildlife and other plant species. In addition, native plants are typically more low maintenance and have a higher life expectancy than non-native species.

Recommendation 2. That the landscape plan should reflect more species diversity. Specifically, the Commission believes that two of the four "Bowhall" Red Maples to be planted along the entry way should be swapped for two trees of another native species. This helps prevent disease and tree loss.

Recommendation 3. That the developer/property owner should have a health inventory of all trees in the Flourtown Shopping Center conducted by a certified arborist within three (3) months of any granted land development approval and commit to replacing any tree determined to be dead or beyond recovery. The results of that inventory and a subsequent plan for the replacement of trees as determined by the inventory should be remitted to the Township within four (4) months of any granted land development approval.

The Commission also voted in favor of authorizing Mr. Ford to forward the Flourtown Shopping Center Recommendations to Mark Penecale, Springfield Township Planning & Zoning Director, for further consideration by the Springfield Township Planning Commission for inclusion with their recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

Old Business

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE (SALDO)

The Commission confirmed with the edits/suggestions made to the DRAFT Landscaping Chapter of the SALDO at their last full meeting and voted in favor to submit the recommended SALDO chapter to the Springfield Township Planning Commission for review.

SEED EXCHANGE / SEED LIBRARY

Ms. Corley informed the group that there was no new information/progress made on this project.

TREE TENDERS BASIC TRAINING

Mr. Ford shared that the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) was to be offering new tree tender training in May 2021. The Commission discussed the possibility of using this program to reinvigorate interest in Shade Trees and the work of the Commission.

ARBOR DAY 2021

The Commission discussed the possibility of hosting an Arbor Day event in the fall of 2021. There was general consensus to aim for August or early September to host the event. Details of activities for the event were not discussed.

ABINGTON SHADE TREE

Ms. Corley and Mr. Bell commented that Dr. Stephens, a member of the Abington Shade Tree Commission, was a presenter at the annual virtual Tree City Conference and that the Springfield Twp. Shade Tree Commission could learn a great deal from their peers in Abington. The group decided to engage Dr. Stephens to gauge her interest in speaking with our Shade Tree Commission.

MORRIS ARBORETUM

Mr. Ford shared the interest of Morris Arboretum in becoming more involved in Springfield Shade Tree activity and their offer to host a tour of their facility for the commission members. The Commission expressed interest in fostering this partnership and scheduling a tour once COVID restrictions have been lifted.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Ford
Assistant Township Manager