

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
October 28, 2021**

The Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission met for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township building located at 1510 Paper Mill Road in Wyndmoor, PA.

Present at the meeting were: Ms. Corley, Mr. Bell, and Mr. Pryzblinski with Ms. Corley presiding as the Commission Chair. Assistant Twp. Manager Ford and Commissioner Lee were also present. Commission members Ms. Ponce and Ms. Breen were absent.

**Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the following meetings:

- Sept. 23, 2021

All in favor. Motion passes.

**Landscaping Plan Review**

There were no submitted plans for the Commission to review.

**Old Business**

**COMMUNITY DAY (Sunday Oct, 3, 2021)**

The Commission discussed their participation in the Township Community Day at Cisco Park on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021. Commission members Corley, Breen, Bell, & Pryzblinski as well as Mr. Ford worked the Shade Tree Commission's Tree Giveaway table. A total of thirty-six (36) shade trees were given to pre-registered households in the Township. This quantity included six 3 gal serviceberry, six 3 gal red oak, ten 2 gal magnolia (by far the most popular), and eight 2 gal bald cypress.

In addition to the giveaway trees, educational materials on the benefits of shade trees, tree maintenance, and related information was available to the public.

Commission members were pleased by the experience as this was their first time participating in community day. A recommendation was made by Mr. Bell to continue participating in community day, possibly with another giveaway of smaller plants/trees, in 2022. The members also commented that large trees, specifically 5 gallon or larger, should be purchased for Arbor Day 2022.

**PARK REPORT**

At the Sept. meeting, Mr. Pryzblinski offered to visit each of the Township's parks to assess the condition and overall health of those public shade trees. This site evaluation was conducted by Mr. Pryzblinski on 10/15/2021. Attached is a summary of Mr. Pryzblinski's observations. This report was shared with Ms. Croke, Parks & Recreation

Director, with the request that it be shared and discussed among the members of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

The Commission applauded Mr. Pryzblinski's efforts and discussed the possibility of undertaking regular site evaluations of public parks on an annual basis.

### **New Business**

Jethro Heiko, founder of Oak Lane Maple in Philadelphia, was in the audience and made general public comment to inform the Commission about the mission of Oak Lane Maple. Mr. Heiko shared that he recently visited Mermaid Park in Wyndmoor and observed several exceptional maple tree specimens and would appreciate an opportunity to discuss educational opportunities to the public regarding the maple-syrup making process. The Commission offered to invite Mr. Heiko to participate in the Township's 2022 Arbor Day celebration.

The Commission decided to pursue an in-person Arbor Day celebration in spring 2022, pending pandemic protocols. The last Arbor Day celebration occurred in 2019 due to COVID.

### **Township Update**

Mr. Ford provided an update on Township activities, including the environmental remediation and redevelopment of the former Tank Car property (1725 Walnut Ave, Orelan), the Township's heightened stormwater initiative, and the current situation regarding 380-402 Haws Lane in Erdenheim. Mr. Ford also reminded members that the Commission typically does not meet in November or December due to the holidays and that the next meeting would take place in late January 2022.

### **Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Ford  
Assistant Township Manager  
Springfield Township, Montco.

Public Park Site Visit - 10/15/2021 Tom

Overview: No visit to Mermaid or Cisco Park

1. Veterans Park - Traymore Ave
  - a. No surviving Shade Trees.
  - b. Ground possibly being rocky and filled - test digs recommended prior to plantings but room to do so.
  - c. Veterans along old hardware fence line: trees (maples) are in excellent condition
  - d. Room for more by parking areas, perhaps one to three large trees
2. Laurel Beech and Township Rec Center
  - a. Laurel Beech in excellent condition- Dawn redwoods along Robertson fence line are beautiful examples
  - b. Separation between fields - Shade Tree plantings in superb condition
  - c. Much room for future plantings throughout
  - d. Entrance on Willow Grove Ave should be marked and relandscaped with trees trimmed or replaced - buildings of old church and parking area make a bad presentation.
  - e. Mermaid Lane side needs rework - remove Redbuds from White Oak mound
  - f. Clear out parking lot mound and plant tree or trees
3. Wyndhill
  - a. Tree allee doing well- recovering (3 each) from early base damage from mowers/weed wackers
  - b. Last three on the left are in poor condition due to neighbors tree overhanging and interfering growth. This neighbor was a problem earlier in the project with debris encroaching on property
  - c. Trees by tennis court (3 maples) doing very well, however, memorial dogwoods planted too close and two are being shut out by the large maples. A site visit by members is recommended to determine a solution before the dogwoods are stunted too greatly and health suffers more
  - d. Perhaps room along fenceline for a couple more trees, but site is dense, if open space is preferred
4. Bysher Ave Fields
  - a. Lots of room for growth.
  - b. Commissioner Wilson's tree project along Bysher Ave growing wonderful and all in excellent shape
5. Fulginiti Park
  - a. Two small specimen trees in bad shape
  - b. Memorial tree is fine
  - c. Plenty of space for more trees, priority site for the future (bald cypress good for flooding)
6. Oreland Little League
  - a. All is well but planted out - no room
7. Sandy Run Park
  - a. A big hot mess - 4 dead trees
  - b. Test digs recommended
  - c. Grass overgrown
  - d. Meadow should be seeded with wildflowers
  - e. Tree pits along parking area - future path through woods