

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 22, 2022**

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. Corley, Mr. Bell, Mr. Pryzblinski, and Ms. Ponce with Ms. Corley presiding as the Commission Chair. Ms. Breen, Assistant Twp. Manager Ford and Commissioner Maxwell were absent. Also attending the meeting was EAC member and Township resident Richard Metz.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Corley and seconded by Mr. Pryzblinski and Mr. Bell to approve the minutes for the following meetings: June 23, 2022. **All in favor. Motion passes.**

Old Business:

Tree Donation Program

The Shade Tree Commission received two tree donation applications that were discussed at the meeting. The first was submitted from Ms. Barnosky in memory of Jill Glodek to be planted in Cisco Park. The tree would also include a commemorative plaque. Mr. Bell suggested meeting with Ms. Barnosky in Cisco Park to decide on a planting place for the tree. The Commission also requested to use Ms. Barnosky's second choice tree, the Winter King Hawthorne, due to her first choice, an Eastern Redbud, being a more difficult tree to grow.

The second tree donation was submitted by Ms. Case in memory of Kevin Mulrain. She requested a Flowering Dogwood in Mermaid Park. Ms. Corley reached out to Ms. Case to discuss the location, considering Mermaid Park has been closed for improvements so planting would have to take place in Spring. Ms. Case decided her second option, Veterans Park, would also be ideal for the tree donation.

New Business:

Alternate Positions

The Commission discussed the Board of Commissioners recent decision to add two alternate positions to the Shade Tree Commission. The Board and Shade Tree Commission are asking that interested residents apply before October 3rd. Mr. Metz suggested recruiting an Arborist to fill one of the vacancies.

Community Day 2022

Community Day will take place October 2nd, 2022 in Cisco Park. The Shade Tree Commission will have a table next to the Environmental Advisory Commission and give out handouts for how to plant trees and the importance of trees. Ms. Ponce also suggested the Commission give out a list of trees native to Pennsylvania to encourage planting native species in the Township. Ms. Corley said she will reach out to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and Tree City USA to see if more resources are available to give out at Community Day.

Tree Tender Partnership

At the June 23, 2022 meeting, the Township discussed the creation of a separate group of volunteers called the Tree Tenders of Springfield who would plant and maintain trees in the Township. Since this meeting, the Tree Tenders group has been certified by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and is being led by Cecilia Dougherty. The Shade Tree Commission discussed the differences between the Shade Tree and the Tree Tenders group. The Tree Tenders operate as an entity outside of the Township and perform tree plantings on behalf of residents on their private property, while the Shade Tree Commission focuses on public education, awareness, and the maintenance of Township-owned trees. The Shade Tree offered their support of the Tree Tenders group and encourages residents to volunteer with them.

Richard Metz Presentation

Richard Metz of the EAC presented a letter to the Shade Tree Commission calling on them to change their mission statement to reflect the need and importance of trees. As it currently states, the mission statement includes wording that trees are for beautification. The new mission statement should reflect the vital role that trees play, such as cooling the Township, providing a home for wildlife, storing carbon, and preventing storm water runoff. Ms. Corley agreed that the mission statement can be changed to reflect these ideals and will rewrite a new mission statement for the Shade Tree to approve. Mr. Metz also recommended recruiting an arborist, coordinating with other municipalities' Shade Tree Commissions, attending meetings more frequently, finding ways to plant more trees, increase projects and addressing the decrease in tree canopy cover. The Shade Tree Commission believes that increasing their budget can help get more trees planted, by both the Commission and by giving them out to private residents. At their next meeting, they plan to focus exclusively on forming a budget request. Ms. Corley also suggested having Mr. Pryzblinski give a public talk or webinar about tree planting and reaching out to local schools to plant trees. Mr. Metz suggested the Shade Tree also set up a Facebook page to interact more with residents.

Adjournment

With no other business, a motion was raised and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission
Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2022

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Corley
Shade Tree Chair
Springfield Township, Montco.