

Notes From STC meeting of Mar 2024

12 Mar 2024

Attendees: Commissioners Joe Ascenzi, John Kennedy, Anna Nicholaides, Steve Sacavage; Assoc. Members Tanya Borman-Voit, Andrew Christy, Robin Eisman; Township representatives: Nathan Vasserman, Information Technology Officer, Ashley McIlvaine, Assistant Township Manager.

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Kennedy at 7:30 pm; adjourned 9:15 pm.

Agenda items:

(1) Minutes from the Feb. 2024 meeting approved.

(2) Ongoing Activities

a. STC Commissioner Coverage [JohnK]

One of the STC commissioners will soon be unable to carry out their term due to changes in personal circumstances, so a replacement will need to be found.

b. Consulting Arborist

A scope of work and list of qualifications for this position were drafted by JohnK, JoeA, and SteveS and sent to the group last week for input. There was discussion of refining these in order to begin the hiring process; Ashley McIlvaine will clarify whether or not a formal RFP is needed; goal is to have a consulting arborist for Township by late spring.

c. Task List

Task list drafted by JohnK, SteveS, RobinE sent to group for input; most of the identified tasks are already covered or were signed up for. / There was discussion of several specific roles. / Was decided that each STC member (Commissioners and associate members) is responsible for tracking their own volunteer hours. / Possible future focus/role for recruiting additional volunteers. / Agreed that task list/assignments will be a “living document”.

d. Washington Ln Status & Follow-ups

JoeA reviewed residents' independent arborist report; main issue in evaluating arborists' reports is lack of plans for planned or alternative sidewalk; AshleyMcI will check w/Engineering Dept. for plans. / Township does not yet have schedule for tree replacement, but received STC request for such a plan from Chair Gallagher and is working on it.

(3) **Grants and Reports:** Postponed to later meeting.

(4) Engagement & Education

a. Communications & Public Engagement Update

TanyaB-V now promoting April tree giveaway – Facebook, emails to STC list, social media; has gotten lots of response. People will be able to post photos of new trees. / Interested in promoting heritage trees. / Reminder for commissioners/other volunteers: (optional) please provide photo / favorite park / how long you've been involved.

(5) Upcoming Projects

a. Tree Giveaway Update & Next Steps

Being organized by AndrewC: Most trees already signed up for; some species already gone. / Already have a good list of volunteers (18) – more would be nice, but OK as is. / Note: ArborDay Fdn software didn't allow for asking about volunteering. / Marie Peterson/Habitat Tree will be paid to cut ~200 wire cages for deer protection. / STC will order an additional tree to plant for Arbor Day.

For future: AnnaN submitted grant request to TC Energy for \$40K for both tree giveaways.

For future: Sugar maple seeds from southern trees – someone who runs a tree farm can supply seeds from VA to Tree Authority for growing, so that STC will have access to sugar maple saplings that are more heat-resistant; AndrewC arranging this.

b. PA Outdoor Corps Invasives Removal Project

RobinE attended intro meeting for all projects for the state; expects to hear from team leader in late Mar/early April. / Contract for project has been signed. / Jessica Tholey (Parks) will be contact for Township for this project given that Parks Dir. Lukens is retiring before it's implemented.

c. Hallowell Live Staking

Will be done May 04, after invasives removal (see b. above). / AnnaN working w/TTF (Tookany-Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership) to organize this. / AnnaN/RobinE to further consult w/TTF to confirm plans for invasives removals.

(6) Miscellaneous Business:

- a. ASD (Abington School Dist.) & Greater Glenside Civic Assn. Updates: Postponed to later meeting.
- c. Abington Library Garden Festival: AndrewC and Tanya B-V will represent the STC at the event (Sat 3/23).

(7) Any Other Business (Time Permitting)

None

Respectfully submitted by Robin Eisman