

Attendees: Commissioners John Kennedy, Robin Eisman, Anna Nicholaides; Assoc. Members Andrew Christy, Tanya Borman-Voit; Travis D'Onofrio; Township representative: Nathan Vasserman, Information Technology Officer; Consulting Arborist John Hosbach.

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

Agenda items:

(1) Approval of May meeting minutes

- Meeting minutes approved w/minor typo noted.

(2) Potential grant application for 2025 tree planting (offered by Giant)

- Will have Library apply for grant to put in trees to replace those recently removed.
- Will be separate planting project at Library for foundation plantings to include shrubs, etc.

(3) 2026 Township budget: Preliminary discussion cont'd

- Will be a meeting on Jun 26 with STC and Township officials (Manager's office, Parks & Rec) to discuss the process.
- Attendees asked to suggest projects and financial needs by end of June.

(4) Invasive Plants Management Plan [Andrew C.]

- Plan is intended to include prioritization of invasives for removal and suggestions for native plants as replacements.
- The joint STC/EAC committee working on this felt the only reasonable bid received was from Natural Lands Trust. While the proposal would cover assessment & planning for many Township parks/properties for \$19.5K, a variant proposal to include all parks/properties would be \$27.6K. EAC already agreed to allocate a further \$1500; STC would need to reallocate \$6100 from other funds to enable this. All 4 STC commissioners present voted to approve this.
- Update (Jun 12): the township Board of Commissioners voted to approve; a joint meeting of the STC, EAC and Natural Lands has been scheduled for July and will be advertised to the public.

(5) Residential street tree planting approval process [Andrew C., Anna N.]

- Discussion about a document that seemed complicated: that will be for internal township use only; the process for residents to request approval for planting street trees will be as streamlined as possible.

(6) Recommended tree list update

- The proposed update to the STC's list of recommended trees was produced by Andrew C., Travis D'O., and John H. (Township Arborist). Discussion had about inclusion of 2 non-native evergreen species and reasons why these were suggested.

- 3 of 4 STC commissioners voted to approve update suggestions, 1 voted to approve contingent on inclusion of statement about using non-native species as last resort.

(7) Volunteer recruitment & (9) Social media support back-up [Tanya B-V., Anna N.]

- Discussion of how to recruit more volunteers to help with non-physical and physical tasks, possibly an intern. Specific suggestions for tasks to be taken on by individuals: eg, help w/social media (Tanya B-V. still doing newsletter); data collection for annual Tree City application; distributing flyers for tree giveaways; “mulch-masters” to keep one or more trees mulched; “Water Warriors” to water trees.
- Per Tanya B-V.’s request, Anna N. will set up an auto-reply for questions posed on social media directing questioners to contact STC via email.

(8) Newly-planted tree-care contractor selection for Ethel Jordan, Penbryn and Crestmont Parks [John K.]

- Glenside Weldon: recent tree tending/mulching event went well.
- Hallowell Park: several trees need staking, but can’t work there til permission received (given SPS cleanup). Permission granted as of the meeting.
- John K. to meet tomorrow w/All-Seasons Landscaping to discuss caring for Ethel Jordan, Penbryn, and Crestmont Parks (~85 trees total); would be mulching and

(10) Ongoing projects/program updates:

- Abington School District (ASD): Anna N. and John H. to meet Jun 17 with Abington School District administrators to discuss adding trees to elementary school grounds.
Update: Meeting went well, w/ASD willing to consider a plan at Copper Beech as a test school, if STC proposes a planting plan and trees that will be low-maintenance.
- Native plant gardens/maintenance at Roslyn Park project [Andrew]
Note from agenda: Roslyn Park trees/native gardens project: contractor Spruce Hollow should finish planting this year's phase by June 13
- Abington library [Andrew]
Note from agenda: Travis is going to wrap up the draft landscape plan for the foundation plantings in the next couple of weeks. We will then need to come up with a tree-planting plan for the other parts of the property.
- Septa rail line slope-stabilization project [John H]
Note from agenda: Project complete by Septa; there will be planting trees in September, will be notifying all in advance.