

Attendees: Commissioners Joe Ascenzi, Robin Eisman, Patricia Gallagher, John Kennedy, Anna Nicolaides; Assoc. Members Andrew Christy, Tanya Borman-Voit; Township representative: Nathan Vasserman, Information Technology Officer; Consulting Arborist John Hosbach.

Called to order by Co-Chair Kennedy at 7:30 pm; adjourned 9:05 pm.

Agenda items:

(1) Minutes from the Aug 2024 meeting were approved.

(2) New Role: Township Consulting Arborist

- John Hosbach, Jr. of Rockwell Associates introduced himself and STC members introduced themselves to him. He noted that he works for several local municipalities as consulting arborist and is certified as an urban community forester, and discussed how he views his role.
- TanyaB-V suggested the possibility of residents being able to ask questions about trees and related issues of J.Hosbach and possibly other experts as well.
- There was discussion of irresponsible contractors who encourage homeowners to remove trees and Hosbach's experience in other municipalities.

(3) Consulting Arborist Role: When/How to Engage Services

John K and Trish G met recently with Ashley McIlvaine (Ass't Township Mgr) and Jessica Tholey (Dir. of Parks & Rec.). A discussion resulted that future engaging with John H, our new consulting arborist, should be coordinated with township Parks & Rec Director Jessica. STC will continue to work with Mr. Hosbach to establish best practices around the role of the consulting arborist.

Land Devel. Plans for 2241 Old Welsh Road

This was a second submission; nothing of note – STC suggestions were included. Public comment was asked for, but there was no public comment at this meeting.

(4) Other Land Devel. Plans

- The plans for Walgreens' redevelopment at Noble Town Ctr, as listed in agenda, were in fact not meant for STC comment.
- New building at PSU_Abington: also no further input sought. JohnK noted that he believes PSU is trying to preserve as many trees as possible, per previous STC suggestions.
- TrishG opined that developers are beginning to pay attention to STC suggestions.

(5) Fall Tree Give-Away [Sat., Oct 26 at Crestmont Park]

AndrewC noted that 5 of the 8 species being given away will need wire cages.

(6) Request for September Newsletter Merial / Other PR

- TanyaB-V noted that she'll send out an STC newsletter (email) soon; requested content.

- TanyaB-V is looking into getting more lawn signs (same as those given out at last year's tree give-away). She'll also order a small number of signs saying "Volunteers at Work" with STC contact info, to be used at volunteer workday events.

(7) PHS Tree Tenders Fall Bare-root Tree Planting

JohnK announced that 18 bare-root trees, to be purchased from PHS (Pa. Hort. Soc.) would be planted in Penbryn Park. Pickup is planned for Nov 13-15; planting will be Nov 15-16 (Fri-Sat). Tree donuts will be placed around the new trees.

(8) Updates on Recent Items

- SEPTA slope stabilization project: JohnHosbach and JoeA met w/SEPTA to discuss plans; SEPTA has agreed to plant a more appropriate species than the one originally planned [and also more trees on each property] as well as to spread a seed mix on the slope itself, rather than leaving the stone surface bare].
- Upcoming talk at PSU: JohnH offered to provide equipment for student volunteers to carry out tree inventories.
- Glenside-Weldon tree planting: AnnaN reported that GGCA (Greater Glenside Civic Assoc.) now has doubts about planting 2 trees in the playground area. Discussion ensued; JohnH suggested that any species planted should not present a risk of falling limbs or other hazards now or in the future.

(9) Other Business

- Hallowell Park: AnnaN reported that she met with Ryan Neumann of TTF at Hallowell earlier today: the willow live-stakes installed in the stream there in the summer were doing well, and he'll return to flag them. AnnaN concerned about clearcutting of riparian area (along stream) by mowing contractors.
- Communications with Parks & Rec: Above discussion led to discussing best practices for communicating with Parks & Rec. TrishG directed that individual STC members should email TrishG, JohnK and the STC email-box rather than contacting Parks directly, so that concerns/requests can be consolidated for communication; also, any individual can report issues to the Township via the Citizen Service Request website [here](#). NathanV. reported that this is checked frequently.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Eisman