

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

Called meeting to order by J Kennedy at 7:30 pm; adjourned 9:10 pm.

Agenda items:

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

(2) Fall 2024 Tree Give-away Update

(3) Fall Bare-root Tree Planting

- John K ordered 15 trees from the PHS bare-root tree program: 10 shade trees (oaks) and 5 smaller ones (hawthorne and redbud). Kathy Hemsly (STC Assoc.) will help supervise volunteers.
- John K and Trish G met several weeks ago w/Jessica Tholey (Parks head), who said that PECO work in Penbryn Park would preclude planting trees there as had been planned. John K will try to meet asap w/J.Tholey to find alternate location for trees.
- Joe A and John H offered to help Township with long-term planning for park trees.

(4) Communications Guidelines for STC

- TrishG reviewed draft guidelines for STC to communicate w/Township administration and public; guidelines drafted by TrishG and JohnK (STC co-chairs). All agreed on contents, which can be updated if/when needed.
- STC co-chairs will update J.Tholey approximately every 2 weeks on STC affairs; other STC individuals should not contact her directly.
- Non-emergency problems can also be reported to the Township at this site HERE (eg, downed trees with no utilities involved).

(5) Updates on Recent Activities

- (a) SEPTA track project near Moreland Rd: John H contacted SEPTA and local commissioner; waiting to hear back from both.
- (b) See (7)
- (c) Redeemer Farm interactions: No update; Joe A, John H still waiting for site plans.
- (d) Presentation at PSU_Abington: Robin E gave a talk to 2 classes on Sep.17, at invite of Prof. Shelly Grinar; topics were forest ecology and what the STC does, plus opportunities for student volunteers.
- (e) Tree planting at Glenside-Weldon: Anna N has recruited 30 volunteers to plant ~20 trees. Joe A to meet w/Anna N on site to decide on exact tree placement.
- (f) Social media: Tanya B-V will distribute the STC swag she designed; is trying to recruit additional volunteers for tree give-away.

(g) Parks & Rec. programming: Tanya B-V offers to coordinate, requests ideas be sent her.

(6) Update on Draft Tree/Landscaping Ordinance

Trish G reviews history of this draft ordinance. Most recently, STC proposed a revision which was sent to MCPC (Montgom. Co. Planning Commiss.) for review and comment; various Township departments, including John H (consulting arborist) are now looking at the landscaping section. Meeting with Township scheduled for Oct 17.

(7) Other

- Tanya B-V notes the request from Commissioner Winegrad to provide input on Abington Art Center plans for night lighting (temporary exhibit).
- Possibilities for watering of recently planted trees discussed (several STC members noted daunting volunteer commitment to keep trees watered). Group discussed several possibilities: primarily, water tanks in parks and/or a contractor, as requested for 2025 budget, to carry out watering, mulching, other maintenance. Issue to be explored further.