

Attendees: Commissioners Trish Gallagher (Chair), Joe Ascenzi, John Kennedy, Anna Nicholaides, Steve Sacavage; Assoc. Members Andrew Christy, Tanya Borman-Voit, Robin Eisman; Township representative Nathan Vasserman, Information Technology Officer.

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

Agenda items:

(1) Wrap-up & Takeaways From Fall Tree Giveaway (Oct 21): [Andrew C, all]

- 40% of registered recipients didn't show up; leftover trees were planted by STC in Hallowell Park (~45), Edgehill Woods (2), or were given to event volunteers for planting at their homes.
- After discussion on what contributed to the high no-show rate, it was decided keep the format of individuals reserving specific species for this coming's spring giveaway, then re-evaluate. There may also be a survey among registrants to evaluate reasons for no-shows.
- The possibility of requesting free small trees/shrubs from the Million Trees Partnership for future giveaways was rejected in favor of exploring the option of including commercially purchased large shrubs.
- Andrew C. obtained 3 quotes for trees/shrubs for spring giveaway – Tree Authority was the least expensive (of them, Octoraro & Pinelands Nursery). NB: This is the co. that has provided trees for last few giveaways.
- Anna N. encouraged including maples for giveaways because of their apparent popularity; Joe A. noted that heat-tolerant cultivars of sugar maples are available.
- Wider publicizing of upcoming tree giveaways was discussed.

(2) Penbryn Park Bare-root Tree Planting (Sat 11/18): [John K, all]

- Parks & Rec to pick up trees; John K. to meet them at Penbryn to help w/placement.
- Is officially an activity sponsored in cooperation with PHS TreeTenders, thru which the trees were bought.
- Good opportunity for publicizing STC generally given high visibility/attendance at Penbryn.

(3) Hallowell Park: [Anna N, all]

- Total of 59 trees planted by Habitat Tree, including those from the tree giveaway event.
- Tree "donuts" available for about 2 dozen, would like to purchase enough donuts for all new trees.

(4) Library Planting Project: [Andrew C, all]

- Andrew C. obtained 3 quotes: sent earlier to STC; discussed at meeting; agreed that Davey Tree Service would remove 2 Bradford pears and do root excavation of ~12 trees that have been improperly mulched over the years, and Habitat Tree would plant ~12 native trees in the parking lot and 1 in an extant tree pit along Old York Rd.
- Watering to be done by Library staff.

(5) Tree Projects in Township Parks/Other Open Spaces

Baederwood & Coates:

- Steve S. did a walk-through w/Karl Lukens (Dir. of P&R), got Lukens' clearance to plant in a number of areas, including knotweed-infested areas in Baederwood. Lukens suggested using a brush-hog to manage areas w/multiflora rose; Steve S will try to coordinate that activity by P&R w/his tree-planting activity.
- Steve S. still has ~25 small trees/shrubs, will try to plant them this fall.

Hallowell Park:

- Anna N. reported on a potential collaboration with TTF Watershed Partnership, which would be happy to do live-staking in the stream that crosses Hallowell. Approval from P&R would be needed.

Edgehill Woods:

- Robin E. reported on volunteer workdays held in October, with about a dozen trees (large and small) and shrubs planted. About 10 shrubs remain for planting in the spring.

(6) STC-ASD Collaborations

- Anna N. and Steve S. attended a Copper Beech PTA meeting along with the ASD (Abington School Dist.) Ass't Facilities Dir. Bob Curtin, who seemed supportive of STC goals. The PTA had not requested trees specifically.

(7) Land Devel. Plan: Former St. Basils (Fox Chase Rd)

- Trish G. noted that the developers added most of the EAC/STC suggestions except for the suggestion to leave the large grassy area unmowed.

(8) General STC Business / Miscellany

- Trish G. attended the commissioners' budget meeting. The STC budget request did not come up for discussion, and the overall budget is now open for public comment.
- Online access to STC files / STC website / defunct email address discussed; former STC chair will be contacted to help resolve issues.
- Professor at PSU_Abington contacted STC to request STC rep. to make presentation to her class(es); Robin E. volunteered to do so. [Followup note: professor didn't return calls or emails.]

Respectfully submitted by Robin Eisman