

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

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

Agenda items:

(1) Wrap-up From Penbryn Park Bare-root Tree Planting: [John K]

- Total of 29 trees planted by 16 volunteers on Sat 11/18.
- Note: PHS has map of all their newly-planted trees (i.e., sponsored by PHS).

(2) Wrap-up From Library Planting Project: [Andrew C]

- Davey Tree Service removed 2 invasive Bradford pears and did root excavation of ~12 trees that had been improperly mulched over the years.
- Habitat Tree planted 12 native trees in the parking lot and 1 (Princeton elm, a cultivar of American elm that is resistant to Dutch elm disease) in the tree pit along Old York Rd.
- Andrew C. hopes that STC can pay for structural pruning in coming year. Watering to be done by Library staff.

(3) Wrap-up From Hallowell Park Tree Planting [Anna N]

- Now enough 'donuts' available for all ~60 recently planted trees. Unused gators to be returned to STC stock.
- Hallowell master plan being developed.

(4) Budget Update / End-of-Year Spending [All]

- Just under \$300 left in STC budget that should be spent by Dec. 31. Discussion on using the money for new signs (to update signs w/outdated contact info) or equipment.
- [Follow-up note: was subsequently decided to create new signs in early 2024; remaining funds were spent on wire fencing to provide to spring tree give-away recipients.]

(5) Land Development Review/Conditional Use Updates [Trish G/ All]

- 711 Fox Chase Rd (Sisters of St. Basil) resubmission [LD-23-01]
- 640 Cedar Rd (Hopewell Veterinary Hospital) [LD-23-04]: Trish G. and Joe A. visited the site and spoke w/the property manager, who reported that "neighbors" were consulted and didn't want more trees on the property. Trees in front of the building will be left; street trees will be added during renovations.
- 1209 Rydal Rd proposed development [Note: agenda has '1409']. Trish G. noted that the STC and EAC will compose a joint letter objecting to the felling of a large number of trees, as currently proposed by the developer. Trish G. noted significant public opposition to this development at the 2 conditional-use hearings she attended.

A guest attendee (Lora Lehmann) brought up the clear-cutting of numerous trees along Valley Rd (between Cox and Paulbrook Rds), which was the subject of complaints from numerous residents, including several to the STC email box. The need for the proposed tree ordinance that

this illustrates was discussed. Related to that, Trish G., Joe A. and Andrew C. met yesterday w/a representative from the MCPC (Montgom. Co. Planning Commission) about code enforcement.

(6) STC Business: Structure of STC [Trish G/ John K/ All]

- Joe A.'s term on the STC ends in Dec. 2023; he is willing to continue serving for now, but the STC will search for a replacement commissioner with similar experience as a professional arborist/horticulturist/etc.
- Trish G. and John K. presented a proposal to make STC functioning more efficient by defining in some detail the roles of the 5 commissioners and the associate members. Having 'point persons' in effect designated for various tasks (e.g., social media, equipment). This would enable several benefits, specifically: shortening monthly STC meetings since many of the routine responsibilities will not need to be discussed for each project. This arrangement would also aid in streamlining contacts with the members of the Township administration that the STC regularly interacts with.

(7) Other Items:

- Two guests from the Greater Glenside Civic Association (GGCA) were present to discuss possible collaboration with the STC: Krystn Kuckelman, President and Alex Dougherty, Chair of its Neighborhood Improvement sub-group. Krystn K. reported that at the recent GGCA community meeting, trees were discussed, and that the GGCA would like to explore options for collaboration with the STC. It was agreed that Anna N. and Robin E. would meet with the GGCA reps before their Feb. board meeting to discuss possibilities.
- Major budget items for 2024: Andrew C. outlined several major outlays for the 2024 budget: tree giveaways (Andrew C. will contact the Arbor Day Fdn. About collaborating on future giveaways); a consulting arborist for the Township who would among various identified tasks would provide oversight and guidance of some pruning needs, attend STC meetings and provide professional input on land development matters that come to the STC. The consulting arborist would also act as a Township liaison (with questions about who on the Township end would be the primary contact). In addition plans for a landscaper who could water newly-planted trees and install several demonstration gardens, including one at the library.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Eisman