

Abington Shade Tree Commission | Meeting Notes

Date:	12/19/2025	Meeting:	December Monthly STC Meeting
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Attendees	John Kennedy, Trish Gallagher, Robin Eisman, Anna Nicholaides, Travis D’Onfrio (commissioners) Andrew Christy, Stuart Shore (associate members)
Absent	N/A
Guests	
Township Staff	Nathan Vassserman

Public Comment	Resident Yolanda from the Abington Woods section of Roslyn wants to help organize a tree planting event in her neighborhood.
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Agenda Topics

	Topic	Notes
1	Tree Planting event in Abington Woods	Yolanda from the Abington Woods section of Roslyn wants to organize a tree planting event in her neighborhood. <u>Next step:</u> Andrew will work with the resident to organize an event in the fall. John K will also assist. STC can consider it as a pilot project. As a larger initiative, Robin will brainstorm getting the word out about trees in general.
2	Grove Park	Shed should be ready by the end of the year. We don’t know where the moisture-sensitive materials will be stored. We will also not have a meeting space. We’re supposed to move out by Jan 19. <u>Next step:</u> wait for shed to be completed. Update date for moving equipment as needed.
3	Tree City	Need to get volunteer hours, trees planted, pruned and removed to Jessica Tholey. Also need to update information for growth award. Trish provided instructions. <u>Next step:</u> John and Andrew will meet to update information for growth award. Everyone needs to add their volunteer hours to the spreadsheet.

4	2026 Event Planning	Discussed potential projects for 2026. We will discuss with the Township at our January quarterly meeting and then at the January STC meeting. ○ Tree giveaways, as usual - Andrew ○ Native plant gardens/trees - Andrew ▪ Continue to maintain Roslyn Park gardens ▪ New gardens: Ardsley Park? One of the pools? War Memorial? ○ Tree planting events ▪ Roslyn neighborhood tree planting – Yolanda • Potentially for the spring ▪ 611 street trees, between the Fairway and War Memorial – Kathy Weir ▪ Fairway trees – Rene, depending on Township approval and development plans ▪ Abington Presbyterian Church street trees – John K • Potentially for the spring ▪ Brentwood neighborhood (behind Target) • Potentially for the fall ▪ Crosswicks Wildlife Sanctuary ▪ Briar Bush Nature Center ▪ Redeemer Valley Farm ▪ Ardsley Park – Trish • Along the walking path away from the playing fields ○ Maintaining existing trees ▪ Tree pruning/deer protection maintenance (until 5” DBH)/mulching – Note that we are already collaborating with the Township to hire a contractor to do these things in 2026 ▪ Free-a-Tree type events for volunteers to remove invasives – Ethan and Rene ▪ Training for Township staff on proper tree maintenance – Ethan.
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		John Hosbach should take the lead on this. ○ Resources for residents ▪ Deer protection for residents – perhaps store and distribute at Alverthorpe every fall – Rene and Andrew ▪ Vine removal from trees – educate residents with targeted flyers ▪ Community education programs about trees/wildlife/human interactions – Yolanda ▪ Education about pruning – Ethan ▪ Education about beech leaf disease – Ethan ▪ Staff education • Maybe work with John Hosbach ○ Other ▪ Staff needs • Need a volunteer manager • Need a natural resources manager ▪ Set up funding necessary for 2027 tree canopy survey update from 2017 (after 10 years) – Andrew • Could ask for grants, could request money in our budget for 2027 to make this happen ▪ Succession plan for Beech trees (BLD may have a 30% mortality rate after 10 years) - Ethan ▪ School district collaboration – Ethan. Anna is committed to continuing collaboration.
5	Proposed Tree Ordinance Status	Solicitor is considering if the ordinance should be contained within the zoning ordinance and SALDO or if it should be a stand-alone ordinance.
6	Grants	Andrew will schedule a meeting between the STC and Kim Hamm and Melissa Schofield at the Township, to begin planning for 2026 grants.

Important Dates

Event or Meeting	Date	Attending
Meeting with Public Works and John Hosbach	TBD	John H., Trish, John K., Andrew
January STC Meeting	January 13, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom	
Quarterly meeting with STC, Township Manager and Parks & Rec	January 14 (updated)	Trish, John K, Andrew