

Abington Shade Tree Commission | Meeting Notes

Date:	06/9/26	Meeting:	June Monthly STC Meeting
-------	---------	----------	--------------------------

Attendees	John Hosbach, Patricia Gallagher, Nathan Vasserman, Andrew Christy, John Kennedy, Anna Nicholaides, Stephen Dennis, Robin Eisman, Travis D’Onofrio, Jen Van Ekelenburg
Absent	N/A
Guests	Justin Tyler, Huck Carswell, Craig Hinton, Jessica Carswell, Huck Carswell
Township Staff	Nathan Vasserman

Public Comment	
----------------	--

Agenda Topics

	Topic	Notes
1	Approval of Meeting Minutes	Patricia called the meeting to order and the June Minutes approved without comment.
2	Eagle Scout Project	Patricia introduced Huck Carswell, a resident Boy Scout Troop 97 Member inquiring about partnering with the STC for his Eagle Scout project – door to door tree give away in the Brentwood Manor neighborhood. The project would begin in early summer 2027, canvassing for interest in August 2027, tree plantings in October 2027. Patricia and Huck discussed the process internally within the Boy Scouts, he would have to submit a plan and application to them for approval. Huck estimates 340 residences in Brentwood Manor and his goal would be to place a tree in 1/3 of them. He believes most people would plant their own trees if he supplied them.

		Andrew and Stephen suggest fliers/marketing, Tanya typically handles STC marketing, Huck would have to ask permission from the Boy Scouts to use their logo. Funding is discussed. Huck suggests soliciting donations from the neighborhood, Andrew suggests applying for grants, such as TC Energy, Kim (township grant manager) could assist. Trish suggests incorporating this into the STC 2027 Budget. Robin requests put Beech Tree disease mitigation funding before this project. Huck has until fall 2028 to complete this project. Robin and Andrew agree plantings should either be fall or spring, preferably fall. Travis volunteers to meet with Huck outside of the meeting to flesh out the concept and how STC can best provide assistance.
3	Beech Tree Disease Updates and Open Discussion	Robin attended an awareness event on Beech Tree Disease and would like to discuss the potential Abington impact. Abington has Beech trees through out it's parks and streets, of primary concern is what portion of the existing canopy is provided by beech trees. Alverthorpe is less significant, Edgehill Woods is more significant. Beech tree disease prevention treatment costs \$24/DBH and treatment is promising though not a guarantee of survival. Treatment plans should be decided by the broader group and township. John Hosbach suggest setting an exact dollar amount the STC should set aside, and then find the best allocation to preserve the greatest amount of canopy possible. Andrew notes treatment is required biannually, which would be an ongoing expense needing future budget allocations. If we cannot secure long-term township support it's not worth starting, historically programs like this begin within the STC budget and migrate to the township for long term care. John Hosbach provided rough math – if we treated 10 mature trees, mean average DBH of 25", that's \$6k .

		John Kennedy – the Parks department as already said no to committing funding. We can find some amount from out budget, but we can't afford \$6k for 10 trees. We can't save every Beech tree in Abington. Patricia will follow up with the township for available funding. John Hosbach – treatment needs to occur by early July to break the insect's lifecycle. A vote of support passes that the STC should try and find funding to support some treatment this year.
4	221 Moredon Road Development	Justin Tyler, of Cornerstone Consulting, attended the meeting as a representative of the property developer. Justin apologizes for the tone of previous correspondence between the developer's representatives and the STC prior to his involvement. He is seeking to establish a mutually productive dialogue between his client and the STC. Patricia states the STC's position is to recommend to the township that the developer's application be denied based on unsatisfactory communication. Andrew states the previous Board of Commissioner's meeting failed to hold a vote on the application pending a good-faith effort of the developer to communicate to and comply with the STC's recommendations. He requests a summary of next steps for the developer so we can start a dialogue. Justin is beginning by surveying the current trees present on the property vs. the plan as some had been removed since the initial survey. Andrew asks who is doing the surveying. Cornerstone Consulting is doing the survey, but doesn't know what was removed. John Hosbach would like the survey to contain the species, diameter, and health rating of the existing trees. He notes any tree removed between surveys should automatically be documented as "healthy and due for replacement". A full spreadsheet inventory is required for

	John's purposes. Justin agrees and offers to meet with John Hosbach on site to coordinate the assessment to John's expectations. Justin states Cornerstone Consulting is unsure of who removed the missing trees or why. John Hosbach explains there is a process to extrapolate "missing trees" based on a 1/10th acre sample surveys of the surrounding forest. Justin states he also documenting naturally fallen trees so they are not considered improperly removed. Andrew requests a response from the developer on why the trees were removed before the STC continues the conversation. Additionally, if any project proposes that greater than 25% of existing canopy is disrupted that efforts be made to reduce this disruption. The proposed project impacts more than 50% of the existing canopy. The STC has no evidence the developer has made effort to preserve the canopy. Specific effort must be documented to protect the multiple trees over 50" DBH on the property. Justin accepts John Hosbach's offer to review the site and agrees it's desirable to protect the significant trees. Andrew adds the species list of new planting should include a greater diversity of native evergreens. Justin agrees to review that suggestion. The developer is proposing an underground stormwater plan that will reduce the footprint of the development as well. John Hosbach suggests the developer themselves attends the next STC meeting due to the severity of the status of the project. If they can agree to reduce overall impact, and preserve the significant trees we can continue our dialogue. Justin states the developer is tentatively resubmitting to the township in August. Andrew adds the application process needs to restart so it's likely the resubmission won't be until the fall.
--	---

		In summary Andrew will share with Justin and John Hosbach the previous memos and conversation history.
5	Fall Project Budgeting	Summary of potential items included in the budget – • Brentwood Manor Eagle Scout Project • Yolanda’s tree planting • Anna suggests a tree planting in the Mt. Carmel area, possible ~30 trees • Additional programs on school property similar to the Copper Beech tree planting – focusing on playgrounds or waiting areas. • Ardsley Park – allowing 75 trees at the park • Mt. Carmel – allowing 50 trees in the area. Andrew suggests capping tree planting on school properties, who cares for them? Should we make the schools fund them? There is a grant “Trees for Watersheds” with an average grant of \$6k that could help support the school districts. An additional problem with the school plantings is no one maintaining or watering them. The districts won’t do it. Andrew requests permission to apply for a grant from TC Energy for fall funding. Patricia asks when the STC budget request is due. Andrew says it’s not certain, will be discussed with the township in July.
6	Open Discussion	There were 2 responses to our open request for project ideas to the mailing list. Stephen Dennis requested help in contacting Rydal Waters or the township to learn who owns/maintains the waterways adjacent to the community as it is overrun with invasive species that may impact the waterways downstream. Cindy Wohlman suggest funding or a volunteer event to control invasive species at Crosswicks Andrew – we have no urgent requests for 2027 funding other than Beech leaf disease. We can request the same funding as 2026 with extra allotments for Roslyn Park,

Abington Shade Tree Commission | Meeting Notes

	Beech Tree disease, Public Works paying John Hosbach, additional watering/mulching care. Patricia – We should revisit Alverthorp and the invasive species discussion. Andrew – Briar Bush is going to assess installing a deer fence as the first step in it’s grant funding. They are getting quotes now, no work will happen until 2027. John, Patricia, and Stephen will reconnect on the annual report to the township. Patricia opens the conversation to public comment. John Hinton is a resident of a separate township and attended to learn about how Abington STC functions and how we work with the EAC. No additional comments. Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.
--	---

Important Dates

Event or Meeting	Date	Attending
July STC Meeting	7/14/2026	
STC / Township Annual Report	7/9/2026	