

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP  
SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, February 5, 2019  
MEETING MINUTES  
7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

ASHBROOK    BOROWSKI    D'AMORE    FASSBENDER    ZEIGLER

BOS LIAISON: BOYLE-NESTER

TOWNSHIP STAFF: HALBOM

TOWNSHIP ARBORIST: HOSBACH

**NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR**

Motion made by Mr. D'Amore to nominate Steve as Chair, second by Mr. Fassbender passed unanimously. Ms. Ashbrook is absent, but was nominated by Fassbender second by Natalie passed unanimously.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

July 9<sup>th</sup> will be held at the Parks and Recreation Building.

**UPDATED CONTACT LIST**

There were no changes to the Commission or contact numbers.

**PLAN REVIEWS**

**1. Patel 7002 Dorsam Way**

John Hosbach has visited the site. This is new construction, part of a former subdivision of eight properties. The site was overgrown at time of purchase. Trees were identified and tagged; trees marked in grey were beyond recovery. The landscape architects were hired by the architect to create this plan.

Four trees were saved, many had to be removed for grading to occur but none of those trees were in great condition. The hedgerow will remain untouched. They determined the caliper inches removed, trees beyond recovery were subtracted, and they then went through using the percentages outlined in the Chapter 55 ordinance to determine the number of replacement trees to be planted. Given the type of property, they requested allowance of 35% evergreen trees as opposed to 30%. This would allow for a natural buffer (site and sound) from the road.

John's concern was the preservation of the Zelcova trees along the streetscape. Compaction was discussed as an issue and Jim mentioned the engineering firm is aware and mindful of that issue. Two large trees on either side of the driveway were discussed. The STC would like them preserved.

Mr. Zeigler confirmed that the only request for accommodation was for the additional 5% of evergreen trees. Mr. Zeigler asked what the proportion of native to non-native species was. Jim reported they had several Red Maples, Zelcova (non-native), Norway Spruce (adaptive), Holly, Clethra, Boxwood (non-native), and various Perennials. John described this as a “mixed pallet.” Mr. Zeigler asked if this was greater than the required 50%. Jim responded in the affirmative. John Hosbach verified that tree protection fencing would be installed.

John Hosbach was asked by the STC for his opinion; he stated it was a great plan. John added that if either large tree next to the driveway were taken down, it would need to be replaced with a minimum 5” caliper tree. The STC agreed that was good incentive not to remove the large trees.

Mr. D’Amore motioned to accept the plan, Mr. Fassbender seconded; the plan was accepted unanimously for approval to the BOS.

2. Sporangio Custom Homes presentation has been delayed. John believes roughly 95% of those trees are healthy and a plan is needed for replacement. Natalie asked what was being built there. John was not certain but expects homes.

## **TOWNSHIP ARBORIST UPDATES**

### **1. Allen Property 2318 Hearts Lane**

They are working on a mitigation plan for the heritage trees that have been removed. John spoke with the Landscaper who has submitted at least one species plan that was rejected. No formal plan is ready for tonight.

### **2. Dooley Sheaf Lane?**

Permitted to remove one tree.

### **3. The Hill at Whitemarsh**

John met with them on several occasions to discuss tree protection fence. Allen Myers is managing the site. Their superintendent has been in good contact regarding tree preservation.

### **4. 401 N. Warner Lane**

Heritage Tree removal (in violation). John is working with them on compensation.

### **5. Chapter 55 Revision**

John believes this is imperative, requested an executive session to discuss the matter. EJ had prepared some notes to the existing ordinance. Sean mentioned he had been in touch with EJ and is moving that issue forward. Laura mentioned that session should be held in public.

### **6. Heritage Tree Application**

Mr. Glick (Whitefield Dr.) had applied for heritage tree status but it was determined the trees did not meet age or size definition.

### **TREE CITY USA Application**

We have not yet applied for TCUSA status. Sean is working with Tom Blomstrom and will have an update by next meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **1. December, 2018 Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. D'Amore, second by Mr. Borowski (4-0), the Commission approved the December 2018 meeting minutes.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Debra Harris (Reading for Eli Glick) – Mr. Glick was disappointed that the January meeting was cancelled. He believes the fee in lieu of funds should be used only for planting of trees. He is pleased to see we will be participating as Tree City USA. He was disappointed his trees were not awarded heritage tree status. He believes they meet the definition of “worthy of preservation because of unusual species, size, rarity, or historical significance...” The application for heritage tree status should be more accessible on the Township’s website.

Debra Harris asked if there was an existing tree plan. She believes Koontz Park could benefit from some tree planting.

Debra Harris made public comment that Whitemarsh should consider a tree adoption program. The STC supported this idea. Debra was requested to write to us with some additional details so the Township could research the matter.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Zeigler responded to public comment and confirmed it is indeed the Township’s plan to use all fee in lieu of payments exclusively for tree care. The method by which tree age is estimated was discussed. The Board discussed identifying areas where tree planting is needed. Mr. Zeigler confirmed that the website redesign would take form finding into account.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Zeigler, second by Mr. D'Amore it was motioned that the STC adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Tuesday, February 27, 2019 at 7pm.