WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

MEETING OF AUGUST 4, 2020 at 7:00 PM

ZOOM MEETING PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

The Whitemarsh Township Shade Tree Commission will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. In response to the COVID 19 health pandemic, and to promote social distancing this meeting will be conducted via ZOOM. Members of the Commission, staff, and public will participate remotely. The public may join this meeting by either telephone using the dial in number or entering the URL on an internet browser. Below you will find instructions on how to access and participate in the meeting:

- **Meeting Date**: Tuesday, August 4, 2020
- **Meeting Time**: 7:00 PM
- **Meeting URL**: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81107273463?pwd=MWZsM0xzSFYxOGx8MXNBSIR3Y3pwZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81107273463?pwd=MWZsM0xzSFYxOGx8MXNBSIR3Y3pwZz09)
- **Meeting via Zoom App**: if you have the Zoom App on your smartphone, tablet, or computer, open the program, click join a meeting, and enter the Meeting ID:
- **Meeting dial in number (no video)**: (646) 558-8656
- **Meeting ID number (to be entered when prompted)**: 811 0727 3463
- **Meeting Password**: 437688

Public comment via email to Assistant Township Manager Sean Halbom, shalbom@whitemarshtwp.org must be submitted one hour before the start of the meeting. Public comment will also be accepted via the ZOOM chat button during the meeting. In both cases you will need to provide your name and address for the record.

Persons with a disability who wish to participate in the public hearing and require an auxiliary aid, service or other accommodation to participate in the hearing should contact Whitemarsh Township at 484-594-2601.
CALL TO ORDER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLAN REVIEWS

Longfield Farms – SLD # 02-19 – Townhome Development.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Knolls at Whitemarsh: 505 A Germantown Pike – Following up to the motion made at the July 2020 STC Meeting: The Township Engineer has conducted daily site inspections at the Knolls site, and confirmed all tree protection fencing is in place as per the approved plans. Additionally, all vehicle and machine traffic has been observed exclusively in approved areas, per the approved plans.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

NEXT MEETING DATES:

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ADJOURNMENT
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

1. Public meetings of the Shade Tree Commission shall follow a prescribed agenda, which will be available to the general in advance of the meeting.

2. If members of the public wish the Commission to address a specific item at a public meeting, a written request to the Staff Liaison shall be submitted by noon on Friday of the week before the meeting. The written request shall specify the item or items the individual desires to be addressed.

3. The Commission may consider other matters for the agenda as they see fit.

4. The Commission will entertain Public Comment at either the beginning of the meeting or prior to specific action items during the meeting, at the discretion of the Chair. Individuals must advise the Chair of their desire to offer such comment.

5. A Public Comment period will be provided at the conclusion of a meeting for input on any subject.

6. The Commission Chair shall preside over Public Comments and may within their discretion:
   a. Recognize individuals wishing to offer comment.
   b. Require identification of such persons.
   c. Allocate total available Public Comment time among all individuals wishing to comment.
   d. Allocate up to a five (5) minute maximum for each individual to offer Public Comment at a meeting, Township Staff shall time comments and shall announce, “one minute remaining” and “time expired” to the Chair.
   e. Rule out of order scandalous, impertinent and redundant comment or any comment the discernible purpose of which is to disrupt or prevent the conduct of the business of the meeting including the questioning of, or polling of, or debating with, individual members of the Commission.
MEMO TO: John Hosbach, Rockwell Associates

FROM: Rick Collier, FAICP, ASLA
       David Cavanaugh, RLA, ASLA
       LandConcepts

DATE: July 23, 2020

Re: Longfield Farm Landscape Plan

Cc: Sean Halbom, Assistant Manager Whitemarsh Township

LandConcepts and Irick Eberhard & Mientus have prepared an updated Landscape Plan for the proposed development at Longfield Farm. This revised plan is the result of site visits including two with you, an updated tree inventory (May and June 2020), and a slightly revised layout of the units and stormwater pipes to maximize tree protection.

The total number of trees on site is 362. Of those, 85 (23.5%) are in poor/declined condition based on the site analysis with you. The number of trees being removed that are healthy is 54 (14.9% of all trees). We are only removing 38.4% with >61% of them in decline or dead.

The submission includes the tree replacement analysis which we submitted to the Township and you on June 26, 2020. That reflects the shifts of units and infrastructure to reduce, wherever possible, tree removal, including a heritage tree (Silver Maple 52”). The result was a loss of 990 caliper inches or 330 replacement trees per Chapter 55-4. B(6)(a). They are met as follows with replacement trees and tree equivalents per Chapter 55-4. B(6)(f).

Tree Replacements (3”) at 1:1 = 165
Ornamental or Evergreen (30%) at 2:1 (189/2) = 99
Shrubs (20%) at 6:1 (396/6) = 66
Total = 330 trees/tree equivalents

The second part included with this submission is a revised Landscape Plan (Sheet 7 and 8 of 30, revised 7/23/20) with updated numbers on all of the required landscape components – street trees per SALDO Section 105-48(B), parking lot trees per SALDO Section 105-39(A), basin landscaping, and tree replacement per Chapter 55. Buffers (Class B, Option 5) per Zoning Section 116-291C are provided to the extent required. The code requirements for all landscape categories are met, including the full complement of replacement trees. Further, the replacement trees utilize the provisions of allowing understory trees, shrubs and perennials at the approved ratios per the SALDO.

Additionally, predominantly native plant materials are proposed. We have allowed for appropriate horticulture, including growth/form, layering (shade trees, flowering/understory trees, shrubs, ground layer), and seasonal interest to achieve a high quality landscape with high habitat value.
Copies of the revised plans have been sent in hard copy by mail and electronically as pdf files to your office and the Township offices. We are anticipating being at the STC meeting scheduled for August 4, 2020.
To: Sean Halbom, MP, Assistant Township Manager - Whitemarsh Township
616 Germantown Pike
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

From: John Hosbach, Consulting Arborist

Date: July 23, 2020
Reference: Tree Review

Dear Sean,

The Proposed Longfield Farm development, located along Butler Pike, has submitted the required tree removal/preservation plan along with the intended landscape improvements.

The subject applicant is removing a total of 139 subject trees within proposed development. During two previous site visits and also a final inspection today, I verified and observed a total of 85 trees that are dead, dying declined beyond repair and or failing from numerous tribulations such as standing water, decay diseases, lack of previous care, age and both abiotic / biotic factors. These were observed with the applicant’s planner, Rick Collier. An additional 54 trees are being removed that were deemed healthy and structurally sound. These are being removed obviously for the proposed development improvements. The remaining 223 trees will remain protected on site.

The applicant is removing 38.4% of the total trees. 14.9% of these trees are rated as healthy. In discussions with the applicant regarding a subject heritage silver maple (51.5”), the applicant has modified improvements to maintain this tree in the landscape. All other trees within the project are protected with TPF.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Removing &gt; than 50 Of total tree count</th>
<th>No – 38.4%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tree protection fence noted</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of natives</td>
<td>Large percentage of the plant palate is native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilization of property to ensure that that use of shade trees is maximized</td>
<td>Yes – the applicant is proposing open space, recreation, trails and possible tot-lot in the future.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity mix</td>
<td>A very balanced diversity species mix is being utilized.</td>
</tr>
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Longfield Farm
The applicant is proposing the utilization of both shade trees, ornamental, evergreen and the use of shrubs to meet the requirements. As noted in the table above, the applicant has designated open space zones for multi-use applications. This will reduce the areas where canopy trees can be planted.

The applicant is proposing the use of the following to capture the 990 inches of trees loss (excluding dead/dying/diseased trees).

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<td>(30%) Ornamental or Evergreen at 2:1 = 99</td>
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This equates to the 330 replacements trees with the utilization, if granted, of ornamental / evergreen / shrub substitution.

The subject landscape utilizes a broad range of natives with a small palate of non-natives. The landscape action plan will most certainly provide a very balanced multi-level (large canopy/sub canopy and shrub layer). I believe this plan is very well suited for the site as it relates to the species.

John Rockwell Hosbach Jr., Urban Forester
Registered Consulting Arborist #483, ISA Certified Arborist PD-0372
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified, ASCA Qualified Tree and Plant Appraiser

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CALL TO ORDER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLAN REVIEWS


Eli Glick offered public comment and shared photographs taken of the Knolls at Whitemarsh. Mr. Glick advocated for more stringent enforcement of tree protections.

The Shade Tree Commission discussed the site inspection process with staff and plans for future inspections.

Steve Kaughman asked what would happen if damaged trees died in the future, following development. He offered that such protections should be added to the revised ordinance.

Sydelle Zove offered that plans being reviewed for any project should include the anticipated location of stored materials, and paths for heavy equipment. Ms. Zove suggested the substitute one-inch whips have their warranty extended by the length of time it would take them to grow to a three-inch DBH size.

Linda Doll shared that developers often deviate from approved plans, and ask forgiveness after the fact. She asks that penalties be made more severe to deter such behavior.

Tam Paulits offered comment about the tree protection fence and what she agrees is a deviation from the approved plans.

Steve Ziegler made a motion that the tree protection fencing is inadequate and improperly installed and that the Township Arborist should compare the original plans to the existing site, Christian Fassbender seconded the motion, the motion passed 4-0.

901 Washington Street – SLD# 05-14 – Townhomes: Sarah Peck presented on behalf of the applicant and shared photos and plans for the site. A total of 27 trees exist on the property, 21 of which will be removed due to disease.

Steve Ziegler offered public comment and asked if there was any opportunity to plant additional shade trees to these plans.

Tam Paulits commented on the size of some of the replacement trees in the plans and request larger shade trees be substituted.

All waivers requested by the applicant's for 901 Washington were approved. However, these waivers are subject to the following conditions:

55-4-B6(a) – Replacement with 3-1” whips in lieu of every required 3” replacement tree. This approval is subject to the applicant insuring those whips for 4-years as opposed to the 18 months in our ordinance. This is to ensure the whips are insured until the reach the 3” caliper size.
Steve Ziegler made a motion to grant this waiver request, Christian Fassbender seconded the motion, the motion passed 4-0.

55-4-B6(f)1 – Maximum 30% replacement trees replaced by flowering or evergreen trees. Approved provided the species of flowering and evergreen trees are the species listed on the plans is adhered to.

Steve Ziegler made a motion to grant this waiver request, Christian Fassbender seconded the motion, the motion passed 4-0.

55-4-B6(f)2 – Maximum 20% replacement with shrubs. Waiver approved for use of 43% shrubs, provided the species of shrubs are the species listed on the plans.

Christian made a motion to grant this waiver request, Patrice Turenne seconded the motion, the motion passed 4-0.

55-3-D – removal of 50% or more trees from any single lot. This was approved by the STC because close to 75% of the trees on site were dead or diseased.

Steve Ziegler made a motion to grant this waiver request, Christian Fassbender seconded the motion, the motion passed 4-0.

105.39.A – Parking lot trees – Permit flowering trees in lieu of Shade Trees at proportions of 1.5 for every 1, provided replacement species are the species listed on the plans. The plans were modified to substitute Rotundiloba Sweetgum as replacement for the columnar variety.

Steve Ziegler made a motion to grant this waiver request, Patrice Turenne seconded the motion, the motion passed 4-0.

105.52.A –Partial Waiver Granted – the STC requires an additional 10 evergreen trees on the Northern Buffer, each between 8-10 feet in height. STC also requires 18 evergreen shrubs to be planted on Norther Buffer, each between 24”-36.”

Steve Ziegler made a motion to grant this partial waiver, subject to the above modifications along the Northern Buffer, Christian Fassbender seconded the motion, the motion passed 4-0.

Prior to moving on from this discussion, the commission reiterated that these waivers are subject to the extended warranty period of 4-years on the one-inch whips. The commission also wished a speedy recovery to her colleague who was absent from this meeting due to a sudden injury.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Christian Fassbender to accept the June minutes, Natalie Borkowski seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Debra Harris asked a question about the regulation of Heritage trees and whether or not the ordinance requires care for heritage trees.

Tam Paulits offered comment about the chapter 55 ordinance (section 55-3-D) and dead and diseased trees’ ecological contributions. She advocated this be considered when we re-write the ordinance. She lobbied for preservation of large canopy trees above replacement trees.
Sydelle Zove offered that developers commonly say they do not have enough room to landscape in accordance with the code, and therefore request waivers. She advocated for development to be designed around the existing landscapes to protect and preserve the ecosystem.

Steve Kaughman commented on the 50% rule (Chapter 55-3-D) and pointed out that the existing language does not exclude dead or diseased trees. He stated that waiver requests should require a hardship.

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There was no board member comment.

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ADJOURNMENT

Christian Fassbender motioned for adjournment, Patrice Turenne seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

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