

Haverford Township - Shade Tree Commission

Meeting: Monday, February 26, 2024

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Room B, 1014 Darby Rd., Havertown Pa., 19083

Minutes - Only

Jim Stephens called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Roll call was taken.

Attendance

Commission Members Attending: Jim Stephens, Doreen Saar, Marie Occhiogrosso, Edmond Krasniqi

Township Representation: Alexis De Santi, TWP Special Projects Coordinator; Jaime Jilozian, Director of Community Development

Members Listening in on Zoom: None

Commission Work Session

Minutes from the June 24th, 2024 meeting we approved.

Jaime Jilozian was introduced as the new Director of Community Development and stayed for the meeting.

Public Comments

None this meeting.

Plan/Permit Reviews

9 Blakely Road, Haverford, PA. Rich Repetto, landscaping contractor, representing John Shandra Landscape Architecture, Norristown PA, represented the applicant. Rich provided the arborist report that justified the removal of the 38" oak. Rich presented an updated planting plan showing trees covering the required 62" caliper tree replacement. All trees are planned for fall 2024 planting. Rich noted Nyssa Sylvatica tree was erroneously added to the plan, and will be removed. STC approved the permit.

128 Flintlock, Drexel Hill, PA. Request for removal was reviewed, but substantive rationale was not provided. Jim Stephens assessed the tree and sidewalk, and reported to the committee that the tree was not in violation of Haverford Township ordinance, nor was it a hazard. Request to remove this 30' healthy King Maple was denied. Jim Stephens will follow up with Alexis with a report.

Howell Lane. STC discussed removal of the 55" Silver Maple. Continuation of discussion from previous STC meeting. Residents reported that the Township tree crew showed up without a removal request being made. Jim Stephens to visit site and will provide an update at the next meeting.

Nitre Hall. Alexis De Santi notified the STC that a new request is pending for removal of a tree at the entrance of the Nitre Hall that appears to be potentially diseased. Jim Stephens will follow up with Alexis to review the tree health and report back to STC for next steps.

General Discussion

New township resident tree offering: STC discussed offering shade tree to new residents in the township. STC, Jamie and Alexis to discuss feasibility to offer trees to new residents including financial support, and other considerations (for example, check for water, sewage, gas lines).

Grading Permit process: STC and Jamie discussed potential updates to the grading

permit to include tree removal question.

Planting trees in the Verge (dog walk). Jaime said she was not aware of anything in the TWP code saying this could not be done, although there are some restriction against to proximity to corners and overhead wires.

Tree removal request: Alexis noted to the STC she is looking at the feasibility of updating the removal request form to streamline the process and the form.

Memorial Trees: STC discussed the possibility of implementing a memorial tree program, acknowledging the challenges related to maintenance and volunteer involvement. Jim Stephens to continue discussion on the feasibility and process for implementing a memorial tree program with Parks and Rec. Jamie will review feasibility and funding options to implement this program.

Heritage Tree Recognition: STC discussed the process and challenges of implementing a heritage tree recognition program, including the size and design of plaques and the potential inconsistency in ordering from different suppliers. Marie shared updates on the search for suppliers and the limitations encountered. Marie and Edmond to create a mock-up for the heritage tree plaque and share with STC members for review.

Reviewed tree removal requests with Alexis since beginning of the year. Discussed few instances where trees were not cut all the way down, and chunks of trees are left there (example, Polo Field) with new growth following. Alexis noted some of the tree chunks are left as nurse logs for some potential future plantings, just to let them decompose and provide some good nutrients, and support for wildlife. STC agreed with township's maintenance of these trees.

Solar Panels at Chatham School: STC discussed advocating for the reconsideration of installing solar panels on Chatham School, highlighting the financial and environmental benefits. The school board's previous decision against it was discussed, with plans to present further arguments in favor of the project.

Haverford Township Day: STC will have a table at the Haverford Township Day street fair to share information about STC, tree giveaway, and use as an opportunity to educate residents on the benefits of trees. Details to be set at the next meeting, prior to the event on October 5.

Formats for best internal communication:

STC will use meeting invites to better organize attendance and ensure quorum for future meetings. Edmond agreed to send out reminders of the meeting during the week before.

STC: descriptor will be used to start a subject line on an email with a new topic. This should reduce confusion and make things easier to find.

Review 2024 Goals (as time permits)

Not reviewed this meeting.

The meeting ended at 9:05 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 26th, 2024 at 7:30 PM.