

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
TUESDAY, December 4, 2019
MEETING MINUTES
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

X ASHBROOK X BOROWSKI X D'AMORE X FASSBENDER X ZIEGLER
X BOS LIAISON: BOYLE-NESTER X TOWNSHIP STAFF: MELLOR
X TOWNSHIP ARBORIST: HOSBACH

PLAN REVIEWS

1. Verizon — VZW Plymouth Meeting —5175 Campus Drive— Whitemarsh Township

Jim Favor representing Verizon Group provided the revised landscape plans for the Verizon VZW 5175 Campus Drive Site in Whitemarsh Township. He stated they are adding to the addition that had previously been approved and because of the current condition of some of the trees on the property and the removal of a few more he said Verizon proposes the following values as Fee-In-Lieu for trees that they are not able to fit on the property. Mr. Hosbach stated upon examination, there is no place for additional trees on the property. They propose: (7) Columnar White Pine, 8' to 10' height: \$375/tree X 7 'ft)=\$2,625.00; (7) Shade Trees, 3" caliper: \$450/tree X 7 =\$3,150.00; Total \$5,775.00.

A Commission member stated he went to the property and there are trees dying on the property and along the fence line. Mr. Hosbach stated there are 3 ash trees declining along the fence line and they can't plant outside the fence because it is in the right of way.

Eli Glick (Whitefield Drive) asked where the dollar amount came from. Mr. Hosbach explained and a discussion ensued. Mr. Glick suggested instead of accepting the fee-in lieu the trees should be planted somewhere on township property. There was a discussion about the Fee-in-Lieu process.

Linda Doll (Fairway Road) spoke against the Fee-in-Lieu and would like to see trees planted somewhere else.

There was a discussion among the Commission and Mr. Glick regarding the Fee-in-Lieu and planting replacement trees in the township. Mrs. Doll stated something needs to be formalized for the Fee-in-Lieu.

On a motion by Mr. D'Amore, second by Mr. Zeigler (5-0), the Commission approved the revised landscape plans for the Verizon VZW 5175 Campus Drive Site in Whitemarsh Township

HERITAGE TREE APPLICATION VERIFICATION

1. Wallace — 120 Red Rambler Drive, Lafayette Hill, PA

Mr. Hosbach stated he went out to the property and the subject elm, *Ulmus* species, is 66 inches in diameter and it is a Confirmed Heritage Tree.

On a motion by Mr. D'Amore, second by Mr. Zeigler (5-0), the Commission confirmed the Heritage Tree at 120 Red Rambler Drive.

TOWNSHIP ARBORIST UPDATES

1. EDP 2017-01 – 3144 Spring Mill Road

Mr. Hosbach stated he met with the residents. He stated they put an addition on their home and they needed to plant. A plan was developed where they are going to plant four green giant arborvitaes, two red maples, a river birch, three flowering dogwoods and three crepe myrtles, which is a total of nine trees over what is required.

2. 6015 West Valley Green Road (Permit #2018-10 – Project Number – WMSH R3030)

Mr. Hosbach stated there was an area where trees needed to be removed and the entire area will be re-forested.

3. Allen Property – 2318 Harts Lane – Heritage Tree Removal

Mr. Hosbach stated a heritage tree was removed without a permit and there is correspondence with the resident as to what needs to be replanted to mitigate the issue.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. August 2018

On a motion by Mr. D'Amore, second by Mr. Zeigler (5-0), the Commission approved the August 2018 meeting minutes. Note the September 11, October 2 and November 6 Shade Tree Commission meetings were cancelled due to no business to conduct.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Mellor introduced the new Assistant Township Manager, Sean Halbom. He stated Mr. Halbom will be the new staff liaison to the Shade Tree Commission. The Commission welcomed him.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Deborah Harris (Pilgrim Road) spoke about neighbors who have clear cut trees on their properties because of their belief that trees fall on houses. She asked if this was something the Shade Tree Commission could educate residents through Whitemarsh Living and the website.

Elli Glick (Whitefield Drive) spoke about the duties and responsibilities of the Shade Tree Commission (as described in the code), the loss of trees to development, the township not participating in Arbor Day, the lack of education by the Commission, the lack of care of trees by township employees, the removal of trees at the new park at Butler Pike and Flourtown Road, no trees being planted at McCarthy Park Basin, no maintenance plan for trees at Andorra Creek Restoration and he listed additional resources that should be used.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Shade Tree Commission members discussed the cost of the new park. They stated a young tree has a much better survival rate than a mature tree. There was a discussion with the arborist about staking trees and his opposition to it. There was also a discussion about the Commissions responsibilities, Arbor Day and Tree City.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. D'Amore, second by Mr. Zeigler (5-0), the Commission adjourned the meeting at 8:05PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 9th at the Parks and Recreation Administration Building at Koontz Park (2391 Harts Lane, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444)