

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2018
MEETING MINUTES
7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

X ASHBROOK X D'AMORE X ZIEGLER ___ VACANT ___ VACANT

X BOS LIAISON: BOYLE-NESTER X TOWNSHIP STAFF: LEE

X TOWNSHIP ARBORIST: HOSBACH

2. PLAN REVIEWS

- EDP 2018-03: 7215 Sheaff Lane – construction of new driveway

Mr. Marc Toth, the Engineer for the applicant provided a background of the project to create a drive-lane within the property content. With its intent, they plan to remove existing trees as shown on the submitted plans, and have allocated shade, evergreen, ornamental and meadow to meet the Township's replacement. The applicant has made adjustments on the placement of the replacement trees from one site of the property to another site, needing further STC approval. The plan calls for removal of 201 trees and replacement of 115 minor flowering/evergreen trees and 96 shade trees.

The applicant met with the Township's consulting arborist to review the plan amendments and the planting list. The Township Arborist made recommendations for species changes and there are no changes to the replacement quantity. The Township Arborist found the updated plan to be satisfactory and meeting the approvals previously granted by the Shade Tree Commission.

Mr. David D'Amore made a motion to recommend approval of the updated plans as submitted, seconded by Ms. Leigh Ashbrook. The motion passed unanimously.

- EDP 2018-04: 6201 Henry Lane – construction of residential house

Mr. Joe Venezia of New Century Builders & Developers, LLC presented the plans for the site noting 35 replacement equivalent trees proposed for removal. In addition, the applicant, under a legal subject is required to plant 23 trees. The submitted plans proposed a total of 28 trees.

The plan submitted shows replacement of the 23 court required trees but only 28 of the 35 replacement trees. The Township Arborist recommended replacing the proposed white pines with Norway Spruce trees to make up the deficiency in replacement requirement.

Ms. Ashbrook made a motion to recommend approval of the plans with the changes as recommended by the Township Arborist, seconded by Mr. D'Amore. The motion passed unanimously.

- EDP 2017-29 – David's Bridal - 1001 Washington St. – Stabilize approximately 840 ft of Eroding River Bank along Schuylkill River

Mr. Hosbach, the Township Arborist, provided a background of this project explaining its unique situation per the plan review and site visit. This is not a proposed development or expansion. The Schuylkill River abuts the property peripheral. In doing so, the river has displaced the edge of the bank. The applicant is proposing a shoring wall to avoid losing their property or even causing major infrastructure damage.

Numerous hazard trees line this river buffer. Four of the total count are worthy of compensation for an equivalency of 29 trees. Due to the vicinity of the proposed wall, lack of planting space (85% of the property is infrastructure), the Arborist recommended that the applicant utilize his compensation in the form of a riparian meadow grass. This will include 14,070 square feet of meadow grass (= 56 trees based on our ordinance).

Upon further discussion of the property, Ms. Ashbrook made a motion to recommend approval of the waiver to exceed the maximum allowed substitution of replacement trees to use meadow grass to compensate for the replacement trees, and then approve the plan as submitted with the waiver in place, seconded by Mr. D'Amore. The motion passed unanimously.

In addition, Mr. Hosbach provided the STC with an update of other applications that he reviewed in the last month:

- EDP 2014-30 – review for plant substitution
- Ch. 55 ordinance revision – work with EJ

3. REVIEW OF CH. 55 – review draft ordinance updates – Ms. EJ Lee will provide the STC with the recommended ordinance amendments via email for discussion at the June meeting after all the STC members have had a chance to review.

Eli Glick, Township resident, made a comment about the calculations for equivalency recommendations for replacement trees.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MAR, 2018 MEETING MINUTES – the March meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS - NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 5, 2018

- Ms. Laura Boyle Nester shared with the group a tree planting and care workshop by the PA Horticultural Society for any STC members who would like to attend.
- Mr. Eli Glick, Township Resident, asked about the Tree City Program that the Township was once a member of. Ms. Lee responded that she will look into it and report on it at the next meeting.
- Mr. Eli Glick, Township Resident, also reiterated his comment from the March STC meeting inquiring about any scientific basis to the current equivalency recommendations for replacing trees taken down by developers or homeowners, to which Mr. Hosbach replied that there was not and that the equivalency recommendations were only opinion.

6. ADJOURNMENT