

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 7, 2020 AT 7:00 PM**

ZIEGLER  D'AMORE  BORKOWSKI  FASSBENDER  TURENNE

BOS LIAISON, TOLL  STAFF LIAISON, HALBOM

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PLAN REVIEWS**

UPDATE: The Knolls at Whitemarsh: 505 A Germantown Pike – See attached Arborist Memo.

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 they 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 Northern 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.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

There was no board member comment.

**NEXT MEETING DATES:**

March 3, 2020	April 7, 2020*	May 5, 2020*	June 2, 2020
July 7, 2020	August 4, 2020	September 1, 2020	October 6, 2020
November 3, 2020	December 1, 2020	*Cancelled due to Pandemic	

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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## 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.