

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MONDAY, JULY 9, 2018
MEETING MINUTES**

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

- SLD 04-18: 249 Hillcrest Ave – 3 lot subdivision

Ms. Lee explained the background of this application, where due to the cancellation of the June meeting and the tight deadline for the applicant to seek approval at the June 28 BOS meeting, the applicant's plan was reviewed by the Consulting Arborist, who confirmed that the revised planting schedule, as submitted on June 7th was sufficient as the lot is limited to designated space constraints.

Mr. Ziegler made a motion for the retroactive recommendation, seconded by Mr. D'Amore. The motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MAY, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Eli Glick, Township Resident, requested that his comments about the science behind the caliper size of replacement trees be added to the May meeting minutes.

Mr. Ziegler made a motion to approve of the May 2018 meeting minutes with the addition of the comments from Mr. Glick. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ashbrook. The motion passed unanimously.

4. REVIEW OF CH. 55 – review draft ordinance updates

The review of Ch. 55 amendments began with a discussion on the review process. The Shade Tree Commission will review the current ordinance to discuss portions of the ordinance that needs changing. The STC review will take several months of discussions at future public meetings. Once the STC has come to a draft of amendments, that draft will be forwarded to the planning commission for their review as Ch. 55 is part of the land development process. Upon review by the PC, the draft will be forwarded to the solicitor for legal review. Once the solicitor has provided feedback after their legal review, the STC will review that again at a public meeting and make any changes necessary. Once the STC has a final draft, it will be forwarded to the board of supervisors for the public hearing process of ordinance amendment. Once the BOS adopts the changes through the public hearing process, the new ordinance will go into effect.

The STC members went through chapter 55 to discuss various components of the ordinance with the following highlights:

- Tree Fund – in place of waivers for applicants who cannot meet the current ordinance requirements, the Township can incorporate a commemorative shade tree fund that would accrue contributions and payments in lieu of replanting requirements and fines levied for the purpose of maintaining the Township's trees and any future planting schedules for public lands.
- Removal of the current replanting substitution options
- Discussion on credits from preserved trees that should be reviewed by the Township PC and the Director of Planning as it impacts Ch. 105
- Increase the native species requirements for replacement trees

Comments from the public, Eli Glick, included a request to include incentives for residents and members of the public to plant more trees. Mr. Glick also suggested a tree review manual that the Township adopt with the ordinance amendment that could serve as a guideline document.

Ms. Lee has noted the comments from the Ch. 55 review and will circulate an updated draft to all the STC members for further review at the next meeting.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS - NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2018

6. ADJOURNMENT – meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm