



UPPER DUBLIN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

801 Loch Alsh Avenue
Fort Washington PA. 19034

December 28, 2010

Honorable Robert J. Pesavento
President, Board of Commissioners
Upper Dublin Township
801 Loch Alsh Avenue
Ft. Washington PA 19034

Re: Annual Report to the Upper Dublin Board of Commissioners

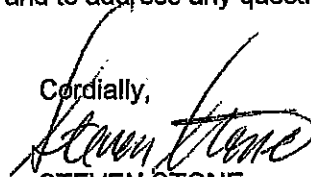
Dear President Pesavento:

I am pleased to enclosed the 16th Annual Report of the Upper Dublin Shade Tree Commission.

We take pride in our many activities and accomplishments over this time. As noted in the Report, we are particularly proud of having planted approximately 1760 trees in Upper Dublin since our establishment.

We would be happy to meet with you and the other Members of the Upper Dublin Board of Commissioners to review this Report and to address any questions and receive any suggestions you may have.

Cordially,



STEVEN STONE
Chairman

c-w/enc:

- Members, Upper Dublin Township Board of Commissioners
- STC Members: Messrs. Ayres, Dartley, Mss. Hoffmann, Parziale
- Township Staff: Messrs. Leonard, Bleemer, Dureka, Supplee, Fowler, Barton; Ms. Ritter
- UD School District: Honorable Michael Paston, Dr. Michael Pladus, Mss. Lohoefer, Fantini.
- Gilbert High, Jr, Esq., Township Solicitor
- Jeffrey Wert, Township Engineer
- Richard Collier, Township Planning & Landscape Consultant
- Michael Morsch, Executive Editor, The Ambler Gazette
- Richard Hartlieb, Jr, Forester, PA Bureau of Forestry, Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources

UPPER DUBLIN SHADE TREE COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE UPPER DUBLIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
For the 12 Months Ending June 30, 2010



Members of the Commission:

Steven Stone, Esq.----Chairman
Chris Dartley--Vice Chairman
Ronald Ayres--Secretary
Debbie Hoffmann--Member
Elizabeth Parziale--Member

The Upper Dublin Shade Tree Commission (STC) is pleased to report on its activities to the Board of Commissioners. We would be happy to meet with the Board of Commissioners to review the contents of this Report. The STC is grateful to the Members of the Board of Commissioners and to the Township officials who have supported our work.

1. MEETINGS

a. The STC holds its regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month, 3:30 PM, at the Township Building. Meeting during business hours facilitates participation by Township personnel, representatives of businesses and other entities having business before the STC, and Township residents. It also facilitates the STC performing site inspections while in session during daylight hours.

b. The STC held 11 regular monthly meetings, and also additional informal work sessions, meetings and site inspections. We customarily combine our July and August meetings. Public Notices of STC meetings have been posted in the Township Building lobby and on the Township Website.

c. The STC has had many guests attend its meetings to discuss pending business and other issues of interest. Also, STC Members have met informally outside of scheduled STC meetings at site inspections and otherwise with various Township officials and consultants, Upper Dublin School District officials, Upper Dublin residents, representatives of the news media and others. Among those with whom we have met in the period covered by this Annual Report are:

- Paul A. Leonard, Township Manager
- Jonathan Bleemer, Township Finance Director
- Lorraine Narducci, Assistant to the Township Manager
- Deb Ritter, Township "Right-to-Know" Officer
- Andy Fowler, Township Department of Public Works
- Susan Lohoefer, then-Director of Parks & Recreation
- Derek Dureka, Director of Parks & Recreation
- Rick Collier, Land Concepts, UD Township. Consultant
- Dennise Falconi, Principal, Sandy Run Middle School
- Jeanie Kellock, Teacher, Sandy Run Middle School
- Mame Guiton, Teacher, Sandy Run Middle School
- Lisa Fantini, Robbins Park Director
- Merl Strunk, Robbins Park Land Manager
- Jeff Wert, Township Engineer
- Brad Turberville, Forester, PA Bureau of Forestry
- Steve Stoughton, Resident, Camp Hill Road
- Nick Neuman, Resident, Lake Drive
- John Custer, Landscaper (re 700 Lake Drive)
- Peter Stankiewicz, ISA Certified Arborist
- Amy Pasquale, Resident, Meadowbrook Ave
- Janet Ebert, Botanist/Consultant
- Jack Holt, Botanist/Consultant
- Stephen Lester, Township Economic Development Coordinator
- Frank Isabella, Department of Parks & Recreation
- Ed Dearden, Department of Parks & Recreation

2. ORGANIZATION

During the period covered by this Report, the STC's membership, with expiration date of current terms, was:

Steven Stone, Esq—Chairman (6/30/15)
Ronald Ayres—Secretary (6/30/12)
Chris Dartley—Vice Chairman (6/30/14)
Debbie Hoffmann—Member (6/30/11)
Betsy Parziale—Member (6/30/13)

3. TREE CITY USA / ARBOR DAY OBSERVANCE

The STC has maintained Upper Dublin's prestigious "Tree City USA" designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation. Because of this designation, the Township is authorized to fly the official "Tree City USA" flag, and to post official signs at Township gateways. This year, the STC conducted 2 Arbor Day observances. On Arbor Day itself, the STC planted 2 trees at Sandy Run Middle School, with the participation of school officials and several dozen school children. Also, the STC's held an Adopt-a-Tree Program on Saturday, May 1, 2010 at the Township Building. At that time, we received our Tree City USA Recertification Award, presented by Brad Turberville, Forester, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources. In support of this effort, the Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution designating April 30, 2010 as Arbor Day in Upper Dublin Township

4. HAZARDOUS TREE INSPECTIONS

The Department of Public Works, the Department of Parks & Recreation, and the STC have continued to cooperate on receiving and responding efficiently to ongoing requests for site inspections. At the request of the Departments, and on its own initiative, the STC inspects tree locations identified as potentially hazardous. Those inspections have concluded with our concurrence as to removal in certain cases, trimming in certain others, and saving trees in still others. Upon consultation with the Township Manager, the STC identified potential consulting arborists who for a nominal fee would perform independent evaluations of trees identified as possibly hazardous where there may be reasonable differences of opinion as to the existence of a hazard. In June, 2010, the STC began work with the Department of Parks & Recreation at the Director's request to develop a policy for blanket approval for tree pruning on Upper Dublin parkland. After drafting and review, the STC adopted the Policy in July, 2010.

5. TREE PLANTINGS

As reported to the Board of Commissioners by e-mail, the STC continued the very successful Adopt-a-Tree program we initiated in 2007. This is a free-standing program in which we purchase potted (container) trees at a cost of about \$12 per tree and give them to Township residents who sign "adoption" papers. In the period covered by this report, we distributed 110 trees on two dates, one in May 2010 and one in October 2009. The STC advertises in the Parks & Recreation Brochure and on the Township website and issues news releases for its planting programs.

In the period covered by this report, approximately 118 trees were planted in Upper Dublin under the STC's aegis. These include trees distributed to Township residents at our Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 Adopt-a-Tree Programs (see previous paragraph), our Arbor Day Planting, follow-ups from our special Elliger Park planting, and trees planted at the North Hills Community Pool as part

of our Annual Planting Program. After the period covered by this Report, at our Community Day 2010 Tree Give-Away on October 2, 2010, we distributed another 130 trees. In November, 2010, we planted 2 trees along Butler Pike in Robbins Park. **The STC takes pride that since its establishment in October, 1994, through October, 2010, it has planted or given to residents to plant approximately 1780 trees!** Several hundred more trees have been planted at the STC's request by property owners and developers.

6. RESIDENT APPLICATION AND INQUIRIES

The STC addresses numerous applications for tree plantings, removals and prunings within the scope of the governing Ordinances and Regulations. The STC responds continuously to inquiries by e-mail, telephone and in person from residents about tree issues.

7. UPPER-DUBLIN COMMUNITY DAY

Through highly popular tree give-aways, the STC participates actively in each Community Day. From 1996 through 2010, we have distributed over 885 trees at these events. We plan to continue our involvement with Community Day in the future.

8. RULES AND REGULATIONS

The STC has over eight year's experience working under the comprehensive Rules & Regulations developed with the assistance of Solicitor Gilbert High, Jr, Esq., and approved by the Board of Commissioners on June 11, 2002. Except for the now-resolved legal dispute with PECO, we have encountered no issues or problems.

9. MEMBERSHIPS

The STC has maintained memberships in the PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY & URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL, and in the SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY TREE ASSOCIATION.

10. PUBLICITY

The STC has received favorable news coverage for our work leading to the renewal of Upper Dublin's Tree City USA designation, our Community Day Program, our Arbor Day Program, and our Adopt-a-Tree Program. We are included in the Upper Dublin Township Website and in the "Parks & Recs" Brochure. Additionally, the STC developed its own brochure entitled "Tips on Caring for Your Shade Tree" to help inform and educate Township residents. These are distributed at all events at which the STC participates. Copies are available from the Upper Dublin Township Reception Desk. Samples of some of the foregoing are attached.

11. OTHER ACTIVITIES

The STC:

- a. met with developers, and reviewed development plans without meetings, to assure that the goals of the Board of Commissioners as set forth in the STC's Enabling Ordinance are pursued.
- b. prepared a Homeowners' Message for the UD Parks & Recreation Brochure and the UD Website.
- c. arranged for passage of STC-sponsored Arbor Day proclamations by the Board of Commissioners.

d. worked to pursue compliance by landscapers and residents who removed trees in violation of Township requirements.

e. met with Township representatives to become familiar with, and participate where appropriate on plans for broader-scale Township projects, including trail expansions, the new High School, specific parkland improvements, the new fire station, rain water control, economic development.

f. worked with the Township's Right-to-Know Officer to supply her with STC Minutes for a number of years, and to assure that copies of future STC Minutes are given to her routinely upon approval.

g. continued work on a project to identify old/historic trees.

h. attended various workshop training programs.

i. worked with the Director of Parks & Recreation to continue our program of obtaining professional assessments of the health of parklands and developing recommendations for maintenance and preservation. To date we have provided assessments for Aidenn Lair Woods, Dillon Road Woodlands, Robbins Park and Rose Valley Preserve.

12. FUTURE PLANS

The STC's future plans, some contingent upon appropriate grant money or other funding and all contingent upon continued support from volunteers and the Township, include:

- Continuing to inspect trees for potentially hazardous conditions and adopting a plan for locating same
- Providing oversight relating to utility company activity
- Maintaining our Tree City USA designation
- Exploring the conversion of a portion of Aidenn Lair Woods from open field requiring ongoing maintenance, to woodland
- Continuing Annual Tree Planting Program
- Continuing Adopt-a-Tree Program
- Conducting Arbor Day programs
- Identifying old/historic trees and developing a Memorable Tree Booklet
- Exploring opportunities for grants for tree acquisition, planting and maintenance
- Continuing education and training for STC members and UD staff to improve expertise and promote proper tree care
- Conducting public education
- Strengthening ties to related organizations by participating in the Pennsylvania Urban & Community Forestry Council and in the Southeast Pennsylvania Community Tree Association
- Working with Township officials to develop an Upper Dublin Tree Bank
- Working with Township officials and consultants to evaluate trail proposals
- Continuing support for the Township's efforts to beautify traffic triangles
- Participating in Upper Dublin Community Day
- Developing tree care guidelines for the Township
- Reviewing and proposing updates to the Township's Acceptable Tree List
- Continuing professional assessments of the health of parklands and developing recommendations for maintenance and preservation

13. BUDGET AND EXPENSES

The STC's Budget for Calendar Year 2010 is \$4,400. We anticipate that our net expenses for 2010 will be at this amount.

The STC assumes that certain activities, including emergency pruning, limited clerical support and supplies, will continue as in the past to be provided by the Township.

Respectfully submitted,

Upper Dublin Shade Tree Commission

Steven Stone, Esq.----Chairman
Chris Dartley—Vice Chairman
Ronald Ayres--Secretary
Debbie Hoffmann—Member
Elizabeth Parziale--Member