

Upper Dublin Shade Tree Commission

Regular Meeting—May 21, 2015

Agenda

1. Call to Order SS
2. Minutes -- 4/15 RA
3. Administrative Issues
 - a) TCUSA Signs & Stickers (022615 e-m: Early April. AF) SS
 - b) TCUSA Recertification Application SS
 - c) STC Vacancy All
 - d) Twining Valley Public Meeting - TONIGHT! (Chelten Baptist Church, 1601 Limekiln Pike, Dresher) SS
 - e) STC Summer Meeting Schedule August 6th? All
4. Applications & Inspection Requests
 - a) Tally-Ho & Norristown (1996; 2001-02; 2015) AFowler
 - b) Rite-Aide Tree Replacements 1201 Bethlehem Pike RBarton
 - c) Sandy Run Park Trees: McElhinney 845 Timber Lane A Fowler
 - d) Robbins Park (Stout Road Side; Butler Pike Side) A Fowler
 - e) Cedar Road (vicinity 637 Argyle) A Fowler
5. Unauthorized Removals
 - a)
6. Other Business
 - a) Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Long-Horned Beetle, Black Walnut Canker RA
--Ebert Survey RA
--Next Steps All
 - b) PA Hort Society -- Bare Root Order Spring 2015 (re Meetg 1214, 0215) RA, Derek
 - c) Historic / Significant Tree Project (www.pabigtrees.com); (Spreadsheet?) ??
 - d) Tree Requests CD
 - e) Acceptable Tree Species Grid DH
--Mark Fallon, Briar Bush, 215-887-9079 (M,T, St)
--See Collier Memo dtd 021808 re UDHS
--DH transmitted to Barton 022614; SS f-up 121714
 - f) Tree Care Guidelines (P+R, UDSD) RA, DH
--10/08: defer to Spring 09;
--10/09: D. Dureka will help; RA will give notes to DH
--3/14: defer to Summer '14
--11/14: Ron is drafting
 - g) Ambler Gazette Mulch Letter -- Sent 041515 SS
 - h) Rapp Run Flood Control Project SS
 - i) Mulching -- Update Website? EPAB?? Deb Ritter; Paul Leonard
7. STC Programs
 - a) Arbor Day Program SS, RA
 - b) Adopt-a-Tree Program

Important Dates:

- a. 6/1815 -- 3:30 PM -- Next STC Meeting
- d. 7/30/15 -- 3:30 PM -- Following STC Meeting (Combined July, August)

UPPER DUBLIN SHADE TREE COMMISSION
Minutes of Thursday, May 21, 2015

Members: Steven Stone, Chair
Chris Dartley, Vice-Chair
Debbie Hoffmann [Absent – Conflict]
Ronald Ayres, Secretary
(1 Vacancy)

Visitors: Derek Dureka, Director, Parks & Recreation
Lisa Fantini, Director, Robbins Park

Action Taken on Tree Applications:

[DBH = Diameter at Breast Height]

1. 1543 Norristown Road, at Tally-Ho: Andy Fowler submitted a request dated April 22, 2015 to allow removal at Township expense of a multi-stem Ash at 1543 Norristown Road, near the corner with Tally-Ho Drive, in order to regrade along Norristown Road to improve drainage at the intersection and to mitigate line-of-sight issues from Tally-Ho. The STC deferred action until it could meet with Andy Fowler.

2. 845 Timber Lane (Wendy McElhinney) – Park Trees Overhanging Property: [Ref. April 16, 2015 STC Minutes]
The STC discussed this at our 5/21/15 meeting. We agreed:

1. The property owner may remove, at her expense, the trees growing in the fence.
2. The property owner may trim/prune any tree to the extent that it overhangs her property.
3. With the exception of #4, none of the trees on Township property appear to be hazardous, and we do not approve their removal.
4. There is an apparently dead mulberry tree on Township property at the far right corner of the McElhinney yard. If Derek Dureka, Director of Parks and Recreation, believes it is a potential hazard (i.e. risk of tree or branches falling into the McElhinney yard), we approve its removal by the township.

3. Robbins Park (UD Twp) – 5 Dead or Dying Trees: Andy Fowler submitted a request to evaluate five (5) dead or dying trees for removal in or along Robbins Park. Coincidentally, as we were discussing it, Lisa Fantini walked by and joined us. We were able to locate only 2 of the 5 trees mentioned. There is one dead tree with a yellow dot on Stout Road. There is another dead tree directly behind the "pump house" near the Robbins Park Building. The STC approved the removal of both of these. Neither Lisa nor Derek were aware of the others. Lisa thought that one or more of them may have been removed recently by Advanced Tree Care. The STC will contact Andy for clarification regarding the other three (3) trees.

4. 637 Argyle Avenue – Norway Maple on Cedar Road: Andy Fowler submitted a request to evaluate a failing 24" DBH Norway Maple for removal of dead portions overhanging Cedar Road as a potential hazard. The STC approved removal of the dead trunk and branches, and would allow removal of other portions if the homeowner so desired.

5. 1230 – 1304 Cedar Road – Various Dead, Dying, or Compromised Trees Overhanging the Road: Andy Fowler submitted a request and map itemizing various trees for evaluation by the STC as potential hazards along Cedar Road. The STC visited the site and made various notes on a number of trees, however, it was difficult to assign notes to specific trees and addresses on the map. The STC approved the removal of a 21" DBH dead tree between 1226 and 1230 Cedar Road, a 34" DBH dead tree to the left of the entrance to 1230 Cedar Road, and a 33" DBH Norway Maple with a large cavity and mostly dead crown at 1300 Cedar Road. Regarding the other trees, specifically those along the frontage of 1304 Cedar Road, the STC desires to make a site visit with Andy Fowler to resolve which trees need to be addressed.

[More]

Action Taken on Development Plans:

1. Twining Valley Golf Course (UD Twp) – Future Plans: [Ref: Prior STC Minutes] The Township is conducting a 2nd public meeting this evening to present three alternative plans for the golf course property should the lease not be renewed when it expires in 2019. Each alternative will be open for subsequent amendments.

2. Rite-Aid, 1201 Bethlehem Pike (Joseph Ammendola) – 7 Dead/Failing Sugar Maples: [Ref. Oct. 16, 2014 and April 16, 2015, STC Minutes] Ron Ayres met on-site with Mr. Ammendola, who offered to plant Pin Oaks or other shade trees suggested by the STC in its previous exchange. Mr. Ayres observed that the spacing was rather close for seven pin oaks and suggested that the STC allow a flowering cherry or other smaller ornamental tree between any two pin oaks (or large shade trees), which the STC approved. Mr. Ammendola also requested permission to trim up the existing Pin Oak for clearance. The STC approved pruning for a clearance of up to eight (8) feet, with no cuts to be made above that height.

3. Rapp Run and Pine Run Dam Structures and Highland Avenue Remediation Sites (UD Twp): [Ref. STC Minutes of March 19 and April 16, 2015]

Regarding tree loss at these sites, Steve Stone conveyed the following from Paul Leonard, Township Manager:

1. Allen Meyers Co. will replace the missing/lost/deer damaged trees in the Fall of 2015.
2. The new trees will be covered by a new warranty from Allen Meyers Co.
3. Mr. Leonard asked for the STC's help on what should be done differently to protect the new trees from deer.

The STC will forward the specifications, which note that trees must be at least six (6) feet tall to prevent deer browse of the uppermost growing stems and must have deer guards, enclosures, or wraps to deter deer rub of the trunk bark, which results in damage or death of the tree. Deer rub protection is generally required for a vertical length of three (3) feet, starting about 6-9 inches above the ground.

4. Rapp Run Access Road from Wynnemoor Way (UD Twp): Ron Ayres will research the STC understanding for tree removals and replacements expected at this site and report back to the STC.

Other Action:

1. **Minutes of April 16, 2015** (revised 05-21-2015) were distributed and approved.
2. **Shade Tree Commission Vacancy:** Steve Stone is pursuing potential candidates.
3. **Combined July / August STC meeting will be held Thursday, July 30, 2015 at 3:30 PM.**
4. **Tree Mulching Practices:** Steve Stone submitted the Letter to the Editor of the Ambler Gazette, as yet unpublished, regarding appropriate mulching practices around trees. In an effort to do more to alert the public of poor mulching practices, the STC will seek to have an article inserted in the Leisure Guide sent to all Township households and will suggest an article be incorporated in the Township web-site. The STC will try to identify methods to inform businesses, especially landscape contractors. Chris Dartley suggested a sign at the Township mulch pickup points explaining proper mulching, which the STC will pursue.

[More]

5. Parks Properties Best Practices Manual: Derek Dureka informed the STC that he will be working on compilation of a best practices manual for maintaining Township properties. He will involve the Environmental Planning Advisory Board (EPAB) as the lead agency to develop the manual, with input and support sought from other agencies, including the County Planning Commission and the STC. An end-of-year completion is anticipated. The STC supports the effort.

6. Ash / Walnut Survey (Emerald Ash Borer Threat): Ron Ayres will attempt to complete entry of the raw data from the survey of one-third of the Township's roadsides by the end of the summer.

7. PHS 31 Bare Root Trees – Spring 2015 Planting: As a combined effort of Parks & Recreation and the Shade Tree Commission, 31 bare-root trees (an extra was provided) were planted mostly in Township parks. Ron Ayres will provide an update of species by location. The following species, Red Maple (8), Sugar Maple (4), Pin Oak (8), Honey Locust (6), Hophornbeam (4), and Amelanchier (1 extra) were planted in Veterans Park (7), Sheeleigh Park (4), Willet Park (4), Tannerie Run (1), Wynnemoor Way at dam access road (1), Mondauk Common near Susquehanna and Broad (1), Robbins Park (9, they planted), Shepard Circle (2), Township Building (1), and Thomas Fitzwater Elementary School (1). No tree was planted on Butler Pike near Morris Road, as authorized by the STC, due to cultural considerations. Ron Ayres noted that tree storage needs to be improved in order to keep the trees from sunlight and will coordinate this with Derek Dureka.

8. Arbor Day 2015 Celebrations: The Arbor Day celebration and planting of a Pin Oak to the right front of Thomas Fitzwater Elementary School on May 3, 2015 went very well, with assistance from students, the Principal, representatives from the School Board and Township Board of Commissioners and staff. State Forester Jessica Salter presented Upper Dublin its annual Tree City USA Award. Steve Stone summarized the event in an email to the Township Board and staff.

9. Spring 2015 Adopt-a-Tree Program – Saturday, May 9, 2015, 8:30 – 10:00 at Twp Building: The tree giveaway was highly successful, with residents throughout the Township adopting trees (see Steve Stone email summary for details). The STC distributed 55 trees, with the remaining 10 being held for Robbins Park or future plantings. A total of \$ 279 was received in donations.

10. Fall 2015 Adopt-a-Tree Program – Saturday, October 3, 2015, 8:00 – 9:30 at Twp Building: The date and new time has been set. The STC itemized various species to be considered (provided to Chris Dartley). Three outstanding tree requests will be met utilizing this tree purchase.

Next Meetings: Thursday, June 18, 2015, at 3:30 PM [Normally 3rd Thursdays at 3:30]
Thursday, July 30, 2015 at 3:30 PM (combined July/August meeting)

Distributed: [All Actions Unanimous Unless Otherwise Stated]
1. STC Agenda for May 21, 2015 (Steve Stone)

Prepared by: Ronald Ayres, May 28, 2015