

**UPPER DUBLIN SHADE TREE COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Thursday, July 28, 2016**

Members: Steven Stone, Chair  
Chris Dartley, Vice-Chair  
Debbie Hoffmann  
Glenn Meyer  
Ronald Ayres, Secretary

Visitors: Rick Barton, Community Planner, Upper Dublin Township  
Carol Bankes, Resident, Stuart Creek Farms  
Susan Dickey, Resident, Stuart Creek Farms

**Action Taken on Tree Applications:**

[DBH = Diameter at Breast Height]

- 1. Tennis Ave Sycamore Allee to Robbins Park (between Tennis Club and Route 309) (UD Twp) - Pruning 2 Sycamores:** Based on site visits, the STC approved the request to prune dead wood from two (2) Sycamores in this allee closer to Tennis Avenue.
- 2. 702 Loch Alsh Avenue (Mrs. O'Donnell) - Linden with Ants:** Mrs. O'Donnell expressed concern about the health of a 42" DBH Linden tree in front of her home (middle of the 5 Lindens in the block) due to signs of ant activity near the base. Based on STC observations, the tree appears generally healthy and moderately effective despite radical pruning by PECO. Mrs. O'Donnell sought reassurance that the tree would survive another 3 years and there were no indications at this time to contradict that expectation. No further action was taken by the STC.
- 3. 704 Loch Alsh Avenue - Linden in Severe Decline:** During site visits to this line of large Little-Leaf Lindens, the 28" DBH tree in front of 704 Loch Alsh (2nd Linden from the Hoffman Rd corner) was observed to be in severe (90%) decline, with numerous dead branches, although there were no obvious defects noted. The STC will ask Andy Fowler to send a letter to the homeowner expressing concern about the future viability of the tree and suggesting removal before it becomes a hazard. The STC approved the removal in advance, should the homeowner decide to proceed. Steve Stone will follow up with Andy. All are alerted that this tree, and the one closer to the corner, are covered in poison ivy and therefore extreme care should be exercised thereabout.
- 4. 1201 Cedar Road, at Loch Alsh Ave - Declining Linden:** One STC member's observation of the line of 5 Lindens along Loch Alsh Avenue led to some concern about the health of the 31" DBH Linden on the edge of the Loch Alsh frontage of this property (the Linden closest to Cedar Rd). Although it appears fairly healthy despite diminishing effectiveness, there appear signs of decline (poor branching, smaller leaves, some dieback) and there are signs of basal rot and a potential defect or rotting portion on the upper leader. With these concerns, the STC would like to bring the state of this tree to the attention of the homeowner and afford all STC members an opportunity to weigh-in on whether the tree might pose a hazard in the near future.
- 5. Three Tuns Playground (UD Twp) - Five (5) Dead or Declining Trees:** Steve Stone, anticipating a formal request from Derek Dureka to consider the removal of five (5) trees either already or nearly dead near the playground at 3 Tuns Park, all of which Steve noted were marked with blue ribbon, sent a June 20, 2016 to STC members to encourage them to evaluate said trees prior to the July 28, 2016 meeting. Having received unequivocal support for their removal, Steve informed Derek Dureka of the STC's conclusions and the full STC hereby ratifies the decision to authorize their removal. The trees included two (2) Black Cherry, two (2) Ash, and one (1) unknown dead tree.

[More]

**6. Three Tuns Park (UD Twp) - Two (2) Dead Trees past Courts and Field:** During examination of other trees for possible removal, Glenn Meyer and Steve Stone noted two additional dead trees near the boundary of the park that may pose a hazard to park users. The STC will call these to the attention of Derek Dureka in order to determine whether they are on Township property or not. In the event they are under STC jurisdiction, the STC authorized their removal as potential hazards.

**Action Taken on Development Plans:**

**1. Virginia Drive near Rapp Run (UD Twp) - 3 Locust Tree Removals for Culvert Expansion, Trail:**

[Ref. April 21 STC Minutes] Consideration of this item is deferred until the STC learns more about this culvert expansion project and the proposed cross-county trail. Steve Stone will follow up.

Debbie Hoffmann reported that another Virginia Avenue street tree in the bridge construction area near Camp Hill Rd. was removed. Although the STC deplors the loss of street trees, it was noted that most street trees in the Office Park are outside of the right-of-way, and therefore also outside the STC's jurisdiction.

**Other Action:**

**1. Minutes of April 21, 2016 (prep. 07-27-16) and June 16, 2016 (rev. 07-28-16)** were distributed and approved.

**2. Fall 2016 Adopt-a-Tree Program, Saturday, October 15, 2016, 8:00 - 9:00 @ Township Building:** Chris Dartley reports that trees will be ordered in early August when availability is released. Debbie Hoffmann has already submitted publicity releases.

**3. Enhanced Trees and Shade at Three Tuns Park:** The STC is concerned that tree loss over time has seriously diminished the shade tree cover at Three Tuns Park and therefore pledges to initiate a tree planting program to systematically replace and enhance the park's shade tree cover. The STC will work with Derek Dureka to ensure that trees will be made available from future Spring and Fall PHS bare-root tree orders to accomplish this.

**4. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Threat to Ash Trees:** Ron Ayres is beginning work on a draft formal plan for addressing the EAB threat.

**5. TreeVitalize Watershed Grant Opportunities:** Steve Stone forwarded to STC members and announcement and application materials for watershed grants through the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society focused on tree planting along stream corridors, wetlands, adjacent upland areas, headwaters, and "naturalized" stormwater basins. The deadline for submission is extremely short, Sept. 1, 2016 and there is a workshop on August 11. The STC agreed to review the materials urgently. In addition, the STC recommended that Township staff consider making a submission, similar to those applied for, received, and implemented successfully by Andy Fowler.

**6. Stuart Creek Farms - Tree & Buffer Losses:** Two residents, Carol Bankes and Susan Dickey, of Stuart Creek Farms, a homeowner-association development, generally between Highland Ave and Ft. Washington Ave along Route 309, presented their frustration, shared by 14 homeowners, with the loss of trees and internal buffers at the hands of their property manager, and sought guidance on whether the Shade Tree Commission could offer any protection. The STC noted it has been aware of excessive tree removals in or near the development. The STC advised the residents that applicable STC jurisdiction extends only within the right-of-way through the development. Steve Stone suggested that increased involvement with their homeowners association and board may lead to changes in attitude. The STC also suggested, and Rick Barton confirmed, that there may be some requirement to preserve trees and buffers within the approved development plan. The residents have a site development plan but not an original landscape plan. Rick Barton kindly offered to pursue a copy through Andy Fowler. The STC made the residents aware that the STC, while not having a tree planting initiative for which trees internal to the development could be planted, residents are eligible to acquire a container tree at each STC Adopt-a-Tree event, which are held each Spring and Fall.

**[More]**

**7. Tree Care Guidelines / Acceptable Tree Species / Proper Mulching / P&R Best Practices Manual:** [Ref. on-going STC Minutes] Ron Ayres circulated Draft 2 (7-23-16) of "Notes and STC Recommendations on the Collier Review of Upper Dublin Landscape Code" to STC members and Rick Barton on July 25, 2016. Rick Barton and the STC went through each point, arriving at an STC consensus on most issues, which Rick Barton will take forward in the ordinance review process. Rick Barton took notes and Ron Ayres will modify the document to reflect the agreed-upon changes. Removed from recommendations were: (1) recommending that Parking Lot Trees be placed under STC jurisdiction, which will be addressed as a separate STC initiative (Ron Ayres to draft a statement) and (2) recommending that the STC maintain the official list of acceptable and unacceptable tree species, which for now will be left within the ordinance itself, with STC-recommended changes included. However, the STC determined to maintain its own such lists for trees within its jurisdiction.

**Next Meetings:** Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016, at 3:30 PM [Meetings at 3:30 PM in Twp Building: ]  
Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016, at 3:30 PM [3rd Thursdays, September – June, ]  
[Last Thursday in July; None in August ]

**Distributed:** [All Actions Unanimous Unless Otherwise Stated]  
1. STC Agenda for July 28, 2016 [Steve Stone]

**Prepared by:** Ronald Ayres, July 28, 2016; Revised Sept. 15, 2016, per Steve Stone