

UPPER DUBLIN SHADE TREE COMMISSION
Minutes of Thursday, September 15, 2016

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

Visitors: Ginny Vitella, Lake Drive [Re: St. Mary's Villa / Mattison Estates]
Heidi Merscher, Hagues Mill Road [St. Mary's]
Carol Bankes, Creole Drive, Stuart Creek Farm [St. Mary's]
Ernie Britz, Bohler Engineering [Mattison]
D. Travis North, Bohler Engineering [Mattison]
Len Poncir, Lindenwold Residential Association [St. Mary's]
Rob Fluehr, The Goldenberg Group [St. Mary's]
Liz Ferry, Upper Dublin Commissioner [Mattison Estates]
George ~, Warminster, Pa. [Re: Wildlife Preservation @ Mattison]
Christine ~, Washington Lane [St. Mary's]
Suzanne Spiker, Villa Drive [St. Mary's]
Derek Dureka, Director, Parks & Recreation

Action Taken on Tree Applications:

[DBH = Diameter at Breast Height]

- 1. 704 Loch Alsh Avenue - Linden in Severe Decline:** [Ref: July 28, 2016 STC Minutes] Steve Stone has arranged for Andy Fowler to send a letter to the homeowner alerting them of the STC's action approving the removal of the large, 28" DBH, Little-Leaf Lindens, in front of 704 Loch Alsh (2nd Linden from the Hoffman Rd corner) which was observed to be in severe (90%) decline, with numerous dead branches, at the homeowner's discretion, before it becomes a hazard.
- 2. Dreshertown Road (former Prudential property) between Welsh and Tuckerstown Roads (BET Investments, Inc.) - 14 Dead Trees:** Peter Clelland, Director of Development at BET, requested in an August 18, 2016 email to Steve Stone that the STC evaluate and approve removal where necessary of 14 dead trees along Dreshertown Road as possible hazards. A marked-up existing features plan was attached. STC members were subsequently alerted to review the trees, however there was some difficulty in identifying the trees in question and Mr. Clelland agreed to provide better marking. The STC will consider the matter after the marking is provided.
- 3. 1201 Cedar Road, at Loch Alsh Ave - Declining Linden:** [Ref: July 28, 2016 STC Minutes] The STC will examine this tree (first large tree on north side of Loch Alsh Ave. from Cedar Rd.) as a potential hazard prior to the Oct. 20, 2016 meeting.
- 4. Three Tuns Playground (UD Twp) - Five (5) Dead or Declining Trees, plus 2 Additional Ash:** [Ref: July 28, 2016 STC Minutes] It was noted by STC members that two (2) additional large Ash trees along a neighbor's border may need to be included in the removals as being in severe decline (and approved July 28, 2016). Derek is aware of these trees, which are on Township property, and all 7 trees are scheduled to be removed. It was noted that the presence of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was confirmed in the Ash trees on August 4, 2016 (see below).

Action Taken on Development Plans:

- 1. 1401 Dreshertown Road (Condor Fitness Studio):** A sketch plan of a proposed fitness center at this site was reviewed. The plan shows two (2) evergreen trees to be removed within the right-of-way, with other trees which are to remain. Replacement trees are to be provided. The STC expressed concern that the proposed replacements included the species *Quercus acutissima* (Sawtooth Oak), a non-native oak that shows signs of escaping into native forests, and therefore the STC approved the sketch plan contingent on the use of an alternative, native oak in place of Sawtooth Oak.

[More]

2. St. Mary's Villa / Mattison Estates: New plans have been submitted to the Township and were presented during the meeting. The plan calls for 250 senior apartments, 32 twin homes, and 72 townhomes on 44 acres. The stone wall along Lindenwold Terrace and Bethlehem Pike is to be retained and repaired. All street trees are to be retained. Nineteen (19) additional trees are proposed along Lindenwold Terrace and Cedar Road, consisting of 9 *Tilia cordata* 'Greenspire' (Littleleaf Linden, a non-native) and 10 *Ulmus americana* 'Princeton' (an American Elm selection resistant to Dutch Elm Disease). according to a schedule provided. The applicants offered to meet with the STC on Lindenwold Terrace to review the proposed street tree plantings. The STC will follow up on this, as it has been planting native replacement trees therein. The STC inquired on counts and sizes of the interior tree removals, but these were not immediately available. However, the applicants noted that they have been consulting with a Township representative, Rick Collier, on the specifics of the interior trees. Interior tree replacements include 586 shade trees (including columnar or fastigate species not normally considered to be shade trees by the STC), 376 ornamental understory trees, and 345 evergreen trees. The tree species Callery Pear and groundcover English Ivy, both potentially invasive species, were noted to be proposed and will be need to be addressed prior to plan approval. Visitors interested in the proposed development were concerned about the tree loss, proposed buffers, extent of development, the need for threatened wildlife surveys, and the flooding potential toward Farm Lane. The STC considered this an advisory, introductory presentation and took no action, awaiting further plans.

Other Action:

1. **Minutes of July 28, 2016 (rev. 09-15-16)** were distributed and approved.
2. **Fall 2016 Adopt-a-Tree Program, Saturday, October 15, 2016, 8:00 - 9:00 @ Township Building:** All is in order for this event. Chris will send a list of species and counts to Ron for preparing a species description list.
3. **PHS Fall 2016 Bare-Root Tree Order:** Ron Ayres received the application in August and submitted the order on Sept. 12, 2016 after consulting with Derek Dureka and STC members. Twenty (20) trees (the maximum at the subsidized rate of \$25 per tree) were ordered for November 17 pickup, four (4) for the STC (Glenn Meyer in Robbins Park) and sixteen (16) for Parks & Recreation, focusing on Three Tuns Park and Burn Brae Park. The order consisted of 8 Red Maple 'Autumn Sunset', 6 Sugar Maple 'Legacy', 2 Allegheny Serviceberry, and 4 'Magnifica' Hackberry. No oaks were listed as available. Ron requested that up to 4 Pin Oaks replace 2 Red and 2 Sugar Maples if available at the nursery.
4. **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Threat to Ash Trees:** [Ref: prior STC Minutes] While reexamining the Ash trees in Three Tuns Park, Ron Ayres noted the small D-shaped exit holes indicative of EAB. Paul Leonard authorized Jason Lubar, a Consulting Arborist at Morris Arboretum, to examine the trees for EAB and their presence was confirmed on August 4, 2016. Ron Ayres, in cooperation with Township staff, prepared a press release announcing the EAB discovery in the Township, and this was issued by Derek Dureka on September 13. Derek reported an influx of calls related to EAB and seeks a list of substitute species. The STC will attempt to establish such a list, which may be available on the internet and, in any case, any species suitable for the replacement site should be considered. The Township's current stance, supported by the STC, is to deal with Ash on Township property that are in obvious decline near trails, public access areas, roadways, and structures. The Township will not be actively pursuing preservation (recurring inoculations), but might consider if an appropriate, uninfected specimen is found. Derek reported an EAB-infected Ash on Wynnemoor Way, for which he will be sending a removal request. The STC will work toward establishing information on the Township's web-site.
5. **Shredded-Leaf Mulch:** The STC supports a request to the Township to prepare shredded-leaf mulch on a trial basis for use under trees on Township property. Ron and Derek will pursue.
6. **STC Minutes Interim Approval:** The STC approved release and posting of draft STC minutes upon email confirmation of a majority of members without a dissent. with approval to be formalized at the next STC meeting.

Next Meetings: Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016, at 3:30 PM [Meetings at 3:30 PM in Twp Building:]
Thursday, Nov. 17, 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 September 15, 2016 [Steve Stone]

Prepared by: Ronald Ayres, October 20, 2016; Revised Oct. 20, 2016 per Steve Stone