

Upper Dublin Shade Tree Commission

Regular Meeting—June 18, 2015

Agenda

1. Call to Order SS
2. Minutes -- 5/15 RA
3. Administrative Issues
  - a) TCUSA Signs & Stickers (022615 e-m: Early April. AF) SS
  - b) STC Vacancy SS
  - c)
4. Applications & Inspection Requests
  - a) Tally-Ho & Norristown (1996; 2001-02; 2015) A Fowler
  - b) Rite-Aide Tree Replacements 1201 Bethlehem Pike R Barton
  - c) LuLu Golf Club along Jenkintown Rd R Barton
  - d) Robbins Park (Stout Road Side; Butler Pike Side) A Fowler
  - e) Cedar Road (vicinity 637 Argyle) A Fowler
  - f) Cheston Lane Island A Fowler
  - g) Franklin Park --(1759 Terrace; 915 Franklin) D Dureka
  - h)
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) Mulching -- Update Website? Best Practices -- EPAB DH
  - c) Historic / Significant Tree Project ([www.pabigtrees.com](http://www.pabigtrees.com)); (Spreadsheet?) GM
  - 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) Rapp Run Flood Control Project SS
  - h)
7. STC Programs
  - a) Adopt-a-Tree Program Fall 2015 All

Important Dates:

- a. 7/30/15 -- 3:30 PM -- Next STC Meeting (Combined July, August))
- b. 9/17/15 -- 3:30 PM -- Following STC Meeting
- c. 10/3/15 -- 8:00 AM --- 9:30 AM -- Adopt-a-Tree Program at Twp Building

**UPPER DUBLIN SHADE TREE COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Thursday, June 18, 2015**

Members: Steven Stone, Chair  
Chris Dartley, Vice-Chair  
Debbie Hoffmann  
Ronald Ayres, Secretary  
(1 Vacancy)

Visitors: [None]

**Action Taken on Tree Applications:**

[DBH = Diameter at Breast Height]

**1. 1543 Norristown Road, at Tally-Ho (Twp request for two (2) Ash removals for drainage remediation):**

[Ref. May 21, 2015 STC Minutes] STC representatives (Stone, Ayres, Hoffmann) met on-site with Andy Fowler on June 3 to evaluate the Township's request to remove two (2) Ash trees along Norristown Road in order to facilitate regrading for effective drainage at the intersection and along Norristown. The 14", 17", and 18" DBH multi-stem Ash nearer the corner is in decline; the farther 22" DBH Ash appears healthier but is sparsely branched. The STC agreed the drainage could not be completed properly without endangering or toppling the trees and therefore approved the removals, contingent upon cooperation from the homeowner. The smaller Arbor Vitae near the Ashes is to remain, pending the homeowner's desires. It is noted that Ash species are imminently threatened by the fatal Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), now on the edge of Montgomery County.

**2. 1230 – 1304 Cedar Road – Various Dead, Dying, or Compromised Trees Overhanging the Road:**

[Ref. STC Minutes of May 21, 2015] Several of these trees were approved for removal and/or dead portion trimming on May 21, 2015. STC members Stone, Hoffmann, and Ayres met with Andy Fowler on-site on June 3 and agreed on additional potentially hazardous trees that could be removed and/or pruned in order to ensure road, pedestrian, and power line safety. None of the trees were large, effective shade trees in good health. The STC confirmed approval of removal and/or trimming of those particular trees.

**3. LuLu Golf Club – Declining Trees Along Jenkintown Road:** Steve Stone received an email from the management of the golf club requesting that the Township evaluate the health of street trees along its perimeter. Steve Stone will forward the email to STC members for evaluation.

**4. Robbins Park (UD Twp) – 5 Dead or Dying Trees:** [Ref. STC Minutes of May 21, 2015] Andy Fowler was contacted regarding additional trees beyond the two removals approved May 21. He indicated that there are no further issues pending.

**5. Cheston Lane Island - 3 Trees (UD Twp):** The Township requested that the STC evaluate the status of 3 trees on the Township-owned island on Cheston Lane, and the island itself, as homeowners are concerned about the lack of maintenance and/or appropriate plantings. All 3 trees are smaller ornamentals. The STC disapproved the removal of the 1<sup>st</sup> tree, which is beautiful and healthy. However, the STC approved removal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> tree (in decline) and 3<sup>rd</sup> tree (dead). Andy had conducted a survey suggesting that the residents desire to retain the island, but with improvements. The STC supports keeping the island by a vote of 3-1 (D. Hoffmann opposed). The STC will evaluate the potential for shade tree plantings within the island. Ron Ayres will present options.

**6. Franklin Park (UD Twp) – Cherry Tree w/large cavity:** The STC approved the request from Parks & Recreation to remove a cherry tree (marked with a blue ribbon, at the rear of 915 Franklin Lane)) that has a large, rotting cavity at its base, despite a leafy canopy, as a hazard.

**7. Franklin Park (UD Twp) – Two (2) Healthy Pine Trees:** The STC disapproved the request for removal of two healthy Pine trees, whose roots encroach unwantedly onto the property of 1759 Terrace Drive. The STC acknowledges that the homeowner (Lynda Federici) has the right to remove any roots within their property.

[More]

Action Taken on Development Plans:

1. **Rite-Aid, 1201 Bethlehem Pike (Joseph Ammendola) – 7 Dead/Failing Sugar Maples:** [Ref. STC Minutes of Oct. 16, 2014, April 16 and May 21, 2015] The STC emailed the results of the May 21, 2015 STC meeting to Mr. Ammendola and will await his action.
2. **Rapp Run and Pine Run Dam Structures and Highland Avenue Remediation Sites (UD Twp):** [Ref. STC Minutes of March 19, April 16, and May 21, 2015] Planting is expected in the Fall. Steve Stone will request from Paul Leonard that an STC liaison be permitted to participate in the Fall planting planning.
3. **Rapp Run Access Road from Wynnemoor Way (UD Twp):** Ron Ayres will continue to research the STC understanding for tree removals and replacements expected at this site and report back to the STC.

Other Action:

1. **Minutes of May 21, 2015** (revised 05-28-2015) were distributed and approved.
2. **Shade Tree Commission Vacancy:** The STC is pleased to announce the Board of Commissioners appointment of Glenn Meyer to fill the unexpired term of Betsy Parziale (ending June 30, 2018).
3. **Shade Tree Commission Reappointment:** The STC is pleased to announce the Board of Commissioners reappointment of Steven Stone for a five-year term (ending June 30, 2020).
4. **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Threat to Ash Trees – Funding Available:** Chris Dartley noted that Growing Greener funding is available to communities to help deal with the EAB threat, and will forward info to STC members.
5. **Parks Properties Best Practices Manual:** [Ref. STC Minutes of May 21, 2015] Debbie Hoffmann will assume the role of STC liaison with the Upper Dublin Environmental Planning Advisory Board (EAPB) in development of this Parks & Rec manual.
6. **Acceptable Tree Species Grid:** The STC has been unable to get feedback from the Code Enforcement Office regarding adoption of the STC's recommended changes to the acceptable tree species list under the Land Development Ordinance. The STC discussed other options, such as requesting the Board of Commissioners to make an ordinance change that would designate the STC as the agent to maintain the list. It was noted that there are some internal changes to Code Enforcement roles and responsibilities. It was determined that Debbie Hoffmann will attempt to arrange a meeting with Rick Barton to ascertain what approach should be taken to get this matter settled.
7. **Tree Care Guidelines:** The STC may merge its guidelines with the P&R Best Practices Manual (see above). Ron intends to continue on development of guidelines.
8. **Fall 2015 Adopt-a-Tree Program – Saturday, October 3, 2015, 8:00 – 9:30 at Twp Building:** Seventy trees of various species will be ordered. Leftovers will be available to residents through the STC. Debbie will develop publicity and include the mulching recommendations wherever appropriate.

Next Meetings: Thursday, **July 30, 2015** at 3:30 PM (combined July/August meeting)  
Thursday, September 17, 2015, at 3:30 PM [Normally 3rd Thursdays at 3:30]

Distributed: [All Actions Unanimous Unless Otherwise Stated]  
1. STC Agenda for June 18, 2015 (Steve Stone)

Prepared by: Ronald Ayres, July 29, 2015; Rev. July 30, 2015