

UPPER DUBLIN SHADE TREE COMMISSION
Minutes of Thursday, June 16, 2016

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

Visitors: Derek Dureka, Director, Parks & Recreation

Action Taken on Tree Applications:

[DBH = Diameter at Breast Height]

- 1. Tennis Avenue Park Access Lane along Route 309 (UD Twp):** Derek Dureka noted that the tennis club completed pruning of trees, mostly Sycamores, above their building roof. Derek requested that the STC examine two trees closest to Tennis for pruning needs and confirm via email.
- 2. Virginia Drive, Office Park, near Camp Hill Road - Two Street Trees / Lighting:** Andy Fowler had marked two street trees along Virginia Drive for removal to enhance street lighting. Although close to the street, the trees are outside the right-of-way and Andy has sought and obtained permission of the property owner to remove the trees. The STC had an opportunity to examine these trees with Andy during an Office Park tour on April 21, 2016 and concluded that these trees could be preserved with only minor pruning necessary for street lighting. Steve Stone will send an email to Paul Leonard, Township Manager, explaining the STC objections and requesting the trees be spared in favor of minor pruning.
- 3. Cross-County Trail component through Office Park:** The STC became aware during the April 21, 2016 tour that large numbers of trees may be slated for removal along Office Park streets in order to accommodate a proposed wide, paved cross-county "trail" through the Office Park. The STC would like to be advised of the specifics of such a plan before making any decisions on tree removals on Township property. Steve Stone will request specific plans from Paul Leonard.
- 4. Franklin Park - Two Pine Trees Pruning (UD Twp):** Derek Dureka informed the STC via a June 2, 2016 email that a neighboring property owner, Lynda Federici, 1759 Terrace Drive, advised the Township in a June 1 email that two Pine trees in Franklin Park by her property were dead and requested removal. Ms. Federici indicated that she had had a contractor remove those tree roots which were encroaching upon her property, as she was advised was at her discretion following a denied request in June 2015 to have the Pine trees removed outright. Derek met with Ms. Federici and agreed to pursue the pruning of dead branches on said trees. Derek seeks STC permission to accomplish this and to further remove a declining leader on one of the trees. The STC approved Derek's requests.
- 5. Robbins Park (UD Twp) - Two Mulberries, Norway Maple near Beecham Drive Frontage:** Derek Dureka, supported by Glenn Meyer, requested that a 17" and 12" DBH White Mulberry, along with a 13" DBH Norway Maple, which are crowding out native trees along the Beecham Drive frontage, be approved for removal. The 17" Mulberry has a broken top. The STC approved the three (3) removals. Replacement trees near the corner with Stout Road are planned for the Fall. A diagram was distributed showing the location of the trees; the diagram included a 32" DBH Sycamore depicting two (2) branches to be removed, along with a 3rd branch on an unidentified tree near the Spring House; however there was no action taken on these items.

Action Taken on Development Plans:

- 1. Welsh Road, Jarrettown Rd to Dreshertown Road (Toll Brothers):** The STC observed numerous Norway Spruce plantings on the constructed berm along Welsh Road and desires to consult the plans to confirm these plantings were approved and that sufficient shade trees are being provided.

[More]

Other Action:

1. **Minutes of May 19, 2016**, as distributed by Steve Stone earlier via email, were approved.
2. **Reappointment of Debbie Hoffmann to STC:** Steve Stone is pleased to announce that the Board of Commissioners has reappointed Debbie Hoffmann to the Shade Tree Commission for a 5-year term ending in June 2021. Congratulations are in order to Debbie.
3. **Tree Care Guidelines / Acceptable Tree Species / Proper Mulching / P&R Best Practices Manual:** [Ref. on-going STC Minutes] As noted at the May 19 meeting, Rick Barton sent a May 12, 2016 memo summarizing the March 30, 2016 meeting with Debbie Hoffmann and Ron Ayres regarding changes to tree ordinances. However, not all members have had an opportunity to review the memo and comment. Consideration of the memo is deferred until the July 28, 2016 STC meeting.
Paul Leonard has approved the text of a letter drafted by Steve Stone to property owners, and its mailing in an official UDT envelope, regarding excessive mulching of trees and proper mulching standards. This letter will be sent by Steve to property owners whenever excessive mulching has been identified.
4. **Fall 2016 Adopt-a-Tree Program, Saturday, October 15, 2016, 8:00 - 9:00** at the Township building has been scheduled by the STC. Chris Dartley will order 80-90 container trees. Debbie Hoffmann will arrange publicity, including through the Parks & Recreation Sept. brochure and web-site.
5. **Deer Guards:** Derek will order an additional 200 black heavy-duty 4' deer guards, plus 100 white spiral 3' deer guards for use on Township trees. The STC authorized an expense of \$600 for 100 of the 200 black guards.
6. **Spring 2016 PHS/TreeVitalize Bare-Root Tree Order:** Thirty (30) trees were received by Parks & Rec staff from the Phila. Navy Yard and stored at Robbins Park on April 21, 2016. Ten (10) trees were funded and planted by the STC @ the subsidized cost of \$25 per tree: six (6) for Robbins Park, 5 planted by Glenn Meyer, with one defective Kentucky Coffeetree held aside (for future credit); three (3) for Shepard Circle, completing the planned plantings there, and one (1) planted by the STC in front of Maple Glen Elementary School in observance of Arbor Day on Friday, April 29, 2016 at 10:30 AM. Parks & Recreation purchased twenty (20) trees, 10 at \$25 per tree and an additional 10 at full PHS cost, \$80 per tree, all of which were planted in parks (sites to be identified).
Derek noted that from the Fall 2015 plantings, 3 trees did not survive of 6 planted in Veterans Park; these may have been Blackgum inadvertently planted in a dry site.
7. **Trees of Upper Dublin Township:** Glenn Meyer is actively working on this project. Ron Ayres suggested that tree photos, with whatever descriptions are available, be forwarded to the Township for inclusion on a web-page that the STC will request to be created to acknowledge the significant trees in the Township. Steve Stone suggested that the STC can "go public" when six (6) such trees are ready to be displayed. Derek offered to assist with establishing GPS coordinates, if desirable.
8. **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Threat to Ash Trees:** A formal plan has yet to be developed by the STC to address this threat. Township officials have received the 2014 Ash Survey Part I results, which project a large number of potentially threatened Ash trees to be along Township streets. STC members noted that Ash trees have leafed out poorly this year; Glenn Meyer may have observed a leaf fungus affecting Ash. Derek identified Ash problems at Mondauk Common and at Three Tuns Park, where two (2) large Ash may be in severe decline. Derek will investigate further. Standing dead Ash were noted at 415 Atkinson Lane.
The STC approved an expenditure of \$125 to purchase an EAB video entitled "Trees in Trouble", which appeared on PBS stations, for a possible Fall 2016 screening at the Township. Ron Ayres will pursue.

Next Meetings: Thursday, July 28, 2016, at 3:30 PM
Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016, at 3:30 PM

[Meetings at 3:30 PM in Twp Building:]
[3rd Thursdays, September – June,]
[Last Thursday in July; None in August]

Distributed:

[All Actions Unanimous Unless Otherwise Stated]

1. STC Agenda for June 16, 2016 [Steve Stone]

Prepared by: Ronald Ayres, July 26, 2016; Revised per Steve Stone, July 28, 2016