

Hanover Township Shade Tree Advisory Board

The monthly meeting of the Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Monday, October 2, 2023, (the September meeting) at 5:30 pm in the Township office building. In attendance were Blair Bates, Jane Cook, Michele Kane, and Marianne Rivera. Yvonne Kutz also attended, as did Carol Kaufmann.

1. The minutes of the August 2023, meeting were approved with no changes after a motion by Michele, seconded by Marianne.

1(a) Carol Kaufmann, a resident of Hanover Township, asked to use a few minutes at the beginning of the meeting with a question she had about trees, since she had another meeting to attend that evening. She had noticed that in the amendment that is currently under consideration by the Board of Supervisors, the size of the trees required in a development has been reduced. When she asked why that was the case, she was told that smaller trees have a better chance of surviving than larger trees, and she was wondering if anyone on the Shade Tree Advisory Board was familiar with that, since she had not been aware of it. The members present said that they were not aware of this, and that every tree, no matter what its size, requires diligent watering maintenance for the first two years to have any hope of surviving. Carol said she will be writing a letter to the Board of Supervisors about this matter.

2. **Shade Tree/Sidewalk proposal and Funding proposal update:** Discussion centered on the wording of the two proposals that Marianne and Jane have been working on. Yvonne mentioned that she knows there is a heavy financial burden for many Township residents when it comes to having to repair a sidewalk and replace a street tree. Sidewalk repairs that go around a tree are allowed, but she has seen that these repairs need to be redone in a few years. Some areas have utility line issues that interfere with planting a new tree. She supports the idea of having a fee of \$20 to apply for a permit to remove a street tree. She is sending out citations now to residents who have not yet complied with requests that they replace missing or dead street trees. Having another zone enforcement officer who is an arborist would be the best way to handle these more enforcement issues. The second proposal covers how the reimbursements will be funded and approved. Discussion centered on the income levels as to who can apply and what documentation would be required, including having obtained a permit prior to removing the tree because it was dead or needed to be removed due to sidewalk damage. Marianne and Jane will be working on the two proposals in the next few weeks to present the revised proposals at the October 30 Shade Tree Advisory Board meeting.
3. **Park Tree Planting, Pruning, Maintenance Updates:** Marianne has been meeting with several arborists to get estimates on removing the hazardous dead branches on several trees in Bluestone Park. Getting someone who can do this work before winter and within the budget constraints is now the challenge. The goal is to make that park safe for people to enjoy the space and to prevent damage to any vehicles parked along the curbs there. Marty Limpar will be meeting with Jane to mark the locations of the trees to be planted in the parks. Erik Josephson will be planting the trees in October.
4. **Missing Street Trees Update:** Marianne reported that she is waiting for the citations to go out to the Birchwood I residents who still have not complied with earlier letters about their dead/missing street trees. Yvonne is sending them warning citations. Then Marianne will work on Birchwood II, although most of it is done and ready to go. Marianne has offered to assist Yvonne in any way that is needed.

5. **Landscape plans from Hanover Engineering:** The Sheetz sketch plan for a new store on Bath Pike has been removed from the Planning Commission agenda for tomorrow night's meeting, so that has been tabled for us to review.

The third draft of the plans for Arcadia to replace a hotel on Gateway Drive (next to the Hampton Inn & Suites and Embassy Bank) with a warehouse/distribution center is still on the Planning Commission agenda for tomorrow night, and Blair and Jane have reviewed those revised plans. The notation by the engineer from Pidcock that there is not a Woodland area in the northeast corner of the site needs confirmation by Hanover Engineering after Jane and Blair did an estimate on 6 of the trees/tree groupings in that area that may not have been included in the Pidcock calculations. The Comment Letter will request that these measurements be verified to determine if this wooded area does constitute a Woodland (20,000 or more square feet of dripline). The plans indicate 18,235 square feet. The Comment Letter also includes concern about using a single species of tree for extended lengths of a planting row, since diseases or pests can kill a given species, and then there would be a large swath of dead trees. This latter concern had been included in the prior Comment Letters.

6. **Old/New Business:**

- A. **The next Shade Tree Advisory Board meeting:** The next scheduled meetings will be Monday, October 30, and Monday, November 20, 2023, at 5:30 pm in the Township meeting room. The November 20 meeting is a new date to allow for all members to attend without schedule conflicts. Jane will notify the Township secretary and others to get that new date approved and changed on the Township website. (This was done on October 3, so all is approved.) There is no December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Jane Cook