

Shade Tree Advisory Board – Meeting Summary February 23, 2026

Meeting Start: 6:00 PM

Attendees: Commission members including Mariann Rivera, Michele Kane, Jane Cook, Blair Bates, and Brenda Happ

1. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Minutes from the **November meeting** were reviewed.
 - Jane Cook could not comment because she was not in attendance
 - **Motion made and approved** to accept the minutes. Michele Kane and Blair Bates
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2. Park Tree Planting – Spring

- No updates were received from Erik regarding spring park tree planting.
 - Normally updates arrive in January, but recent winters have disrupted the schedule.
 - Item will remain pending until further information is available.
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3. Street Tree / Shade Tree Presentation

- Brenda is preparing a **PowerPoint presentation** about street trees.
 - Additional photos are being collected.
 - Tracy has been busy addressing **snow-covered sidewalks and blocked fire hydrants**, delaying the tree photo work.
 - If sufficient photos cannot be taken locally, images may be sourced online.
 - The presentation will also include **tree placement requirements from the township ordinance**, including topped tree examples, over-hanging branches along streets and sidewalks.
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4. Budget Update

- The commission reported **no significant spending so far this year**.
- Planned expense:

- Approximately **\$2,800 for tree pruning** around the parking lot and pathways near Claire and Greenfield.
 - Work to be performed by Joel.
 - Pruning is typically done in winter; weather may have delayed the work.
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5. Arbor Day Planning

Tentative Date: Friday, April 24

Possible Location

- **Hanover Elementary School** may host the Arbor Day celebration and tree planting.
- If the school agrees:
 - The event will include **tree planting and a small festival with students**.
 - Lori will present a brief educational talk (pictures only, no PowerPoint).
 - Cupcakes and small giveaways will be provided.

Event Logistics

- Only a few volunteers are needed (Michele Kane, Lori Metz, and another member).
- If Hanover hosts:
 - The school may already have a tree available.
 - This would **eliminate the need to purchase a tree**, saving money.

Other Considerations

- The commission declined to hold the event at **Asa Packer School** because the school was not interested in having a tree planted, which is considered central to Arbor Day.
- If Hanover does not receive approval from the Board of Education:
 - The commission will hold a **simpler Arbor Day event at the community center or another location**.

Budget for Arbor Day

- Small expenses only:
 - \$50 payment for Lori's presentation
 - Cupcakes and decorations
 - Stickers already available from last year
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New Business

6. Proposed Warehouse Development – Steuben Road

A large portion of the meeting focused on reviewing a **land development proposal** for a warehouse project.

Location

- Property located on **Steuben Road at Township Line Road**.

Major Concerns Raised

1. **Construction on a Limestone Quarry**
 - The proposed warehouse would partially sit on top of an old limestone quarry.
 - Members questioned the structural stability and potential for sinkholes.
 2. **Environmental Impact**
 - Possible effects on nearby creek systems.
 - Stormwater runoff plans direct water into a creek.
 - Concerns about groundwater and soil stability.
 3. **Tree Removal and Replacement**
 - Plans show **large-scale tree clearing**.
 - The development proposes planting **hundreds of new trees**, but:
 - Trees appear extremely close together on the plan.
 - The spacing may not meet ordinance requirements.
 - Some tree species and planting details need verification.
 4. **Woodland Preservation Requirements**
 - If the area qualifies as a woodland, regulations require:
 - Preservation of a percentage of existing trees.
 - Replacement planting at higher ratios.
 5. **Errors in the Development Plan**

Several issues were identified:

 - References to **the wrong township (Lower Nazareth)** in the documents.
 - Tree measurements listed at **3 feet above ground instead of the ordinance-required 4 feet**.
 - Lack of a **clear list of trees to be removed**.
 - Planting details and diagrams may not match the ordinance.
 6. **Stormwater Management**
 - Plans include:
 - Underground stormwater retention
 - Irrigation systems
 - A drainage outlet into the creek
 - Members discussed whether these systems are adequate.
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7. Planning Commission Timeline

- Comments must be submitted before the **Planning Commission meeting on March 2.**
 - Members will prepare written questions and comments regarding:
 - Tree removal
 - Replacement planting
 - Ordinance compliance
 - Environmental impacts.
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Meeting Conclusion

- Members agreed to continue reviewing the development plans and finalize comments before the planning commission meeting.
 - Arbor Day planning will proceed once the school confirms participation.
 - **Next Meeting 27 April 2026**
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