

Shade Tree Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 27, 2026 6:00PM

Location: Township Meeting Room

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order and prior meeting minutes from March were approved.

Landscape Plans

- No landscape plans were presented.

Street Tree Updates

- Discussion occurred regarding sewer work and replacement of cherry trees on Gaspar Avenue.
 - Residents expressed concern about preserving the neighborhood's flowering cherry tree character.
 - Consultation with BetterScapes resulted in a recommendation to replace trees with hardy cherry varieties while maintaining visual continuity.
- Discussion took place regarding unauthorized removal of large street trees by a resident.
 - Township staff confirmed no permit had been issued at the time of removal.
 - Concerns were raised by neighbors regarding loss of mature trees.
- Members discussed future possibilities for stronger protections or advocacy regarding tree removal in neighborhoods.
- Updated permit applications now include a waiver acknowledgment regarding use of uninsured or uncertified tree contractors to improve accountability and public awareness.
- A list of approved/certified tree service companies remains available for residents.

Tree Maintenance and Park Trees

- BetterScapes will complete pruning work near the skate park parking lot and walkway area on May 21.
 - Cost approved: \$2,800.
- Tree fund usage was reviewed.
 - Funds may be used for trees in any public township space, including schools.
- No additional park tree projects are anticipated until fall planting season.

Budget Discussion

- The Commission budget remains approximately \$8,000.

- Budget funds cover:
 - Arbor Day activities
 - Educational materials
 - Tree maintenance expenses
 - Other operational activities excluding park tree planting

Arbor Day Review

- Members agreed the Arbor Day event was successful and well attended.
- Activities included:
 - Educational presentations
 - Discussion of photosynthesis and oxygen production
 - Participation by “Linden Tree” mascot/guest
- Students responded enthusiastically to the event.
- Suggestions for next year included:
 - Additional shovels
 - Allowing more students to participate in planting rotations
- Teachers were provided activity sheets and stickers for classroom use.
- Timing of the event worked well and stayed on schedule.
- Members noted limitations on photographing students due to school policies.

Newsletter

- Jane will prepare the newsletter submission regarding Arbor Day activities.

Follow-Up on Previously Planted Trees

- Members discussed monitoring recently planted trees near Schoenersville Road and Macada Road/behavioral health project areas.
- Follow-up inspections may occur in June after trees have fully leafed out.
- Developers remain responsible for replacing trees that fail within required maintenance periods.

Additional Discussion

- Members discussed recently planted trees on Lord Byron Drive and concerns about whether all newly planted trees are leafing out properly.
- Continued drought conditions were acknowledged despite recent snowfall.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned following completion of old and new business discussions.