

Hanover Township Shade Tree Advisory Board

The monthly meeting of the Shade Tree Advisory Board was held via Zoom on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance were Blair Bates, Mary Kay Brezinsky, Jane Cook, Bill Glose, Mary Ellen O'Connell, Gamini Vedage and Joan Witiak.

1. The minutes of the November 30, 2020, meeting were approved after a motion by Blair Bates, seconded by Joan Witiak.
2. Welcome New Members and Election of Chair and Secretary: Joan welcomed the four new members of the STAB. All members voted to name Joan Witiak as the chair and Jane Cook as the secretary for the current year, following two motions made by Jane and seconded by Blair.
3. How to Properly Plant a Tree: Joan had sent to all members an attachment detailing proper techniques for planting shrubs and trees. This document would be helpful for township property homeowners to refer to when they are replacing missing or dead street trees, as required by Township ordinance. It should also be followed for all park tree plantings and development installations.
4. Spring Park Tree Planting: Erik Josephson has done the Township park tree plantings for the past few years and supplies excellent trees, planted correctly at very reasonable costs. He submitted a preliminary bid for 14 trees. Schochary Ridge Nursery is also a great source, especially for oaks. This year Schochary has little inventory of the oaks we need. We need to determine the locations for the new plantings this spring and get them approved by the Township. Vince Milite may take us around the parks to make those location decisions, but it will depend on COVID restrictions, which may require that we take individual cars to maintain proper protocol. Joan will submit Erik's bid to Jay Finnigan for approval, to reserve the trees, with the earliest plantings planned for April.
5. Park Tree Pruning and Maintenance: Troxell Park has several zelkova trees along Matts Dr. that need pruning. Joan and Mary Ellen will get bids to get them pruned and revitalized. Mary Ellen will contact Jacob's Tree Service, and Joan will contact Joshua Tree and an arborist in Northampton to get estimates. At First Responders' Park, most of the trees planted there a few years ago are planted too deep and need to be air-spaded prior to structural pruning. The Township has denied spending money for this in the past. Erik Josephson said that when the trees he has planted are a few years old, he will return to get their basic pruning done, which will help ensure their successful growth into mature specimens.
6. Shade Tree List: The Township tree list is due for revision. Jane sent an email to each of the board members today with the City of Bethlehem Shade Tree List to use as a comparison to the existing Township list. Bill will contact the Easton city forester to get their list. We can then compare all three lists to develop a new list for the Township.
7. Missing Street Trees: This has been a big problem for years, with many residents failing to replace missing or dead street trees on their property. If a street tree is removed, it must be replaced, although there is some variation in how this is applied throughout the different parts of the Township. We hope to submit addresses to the Zoning Office to get the

removed trees replaced. We could be a resource to help people choose the right tree. Each of us was urged to send an address to Joan when we see a tree that needs to be replaced, and she will forward it to Zoning. The ordinance requires that replacement trees be selected from the Township's Approved List and be at least 2-inch caliper at 4 feet above the ground.

8. Review Hindu Temple Society Plans: Joan explained that the Township ordinance requires that at least 10% of the square footage of impervious cover be used as the amount of required landscaping in order for a project to be approved, and 35% or more of that landscaping must be large, deciduous trees. There was no required landscape calculation submitted with this plan. In 2011, the Hindu Society added parking, and Joan had to request the landscape calculations, as with this new plan. They will need to add several large, deciduous trees, and Hanover Engineering is aware of this. We are waiting to receive revised plans to review for the proper number and variety of trees.

9. Old/New Business: None

The next meeting will be on Monday, February 22, 2021, at 6 p.m., and it will be via Zoom, as was tonight's meeting. Joan thanked Jay for hosting it and sharing the screen shots of our agenda and attachments, as needed, for tonight's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Cook