

Hanover Township Shade Tree Advisory Board

The monthly meeting of the Shade Tree Advisory Board was held via Zoom on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

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

1. The minutes of the January 25, 2021, meeting were approved after a motion by Gamini, seconded by Bill.
2. How to Properly Prune a Tree: Joan had emailed each board member an attachment that gives detailed information about the proper way to prune a tree. She pointed out the importance of using a three-cut method for large branches and making a final cut just outside the branch collar, not leaving a stub and not cutting into the collar. She emphasized that one should never paint or put anything on the open area of the cut, since it will interfere with the tree's healing process. She also reminded us of the importance of always using a certified arborist for any pruning jobs on trees, and how damaging it is to "top" a tree. Topping trees is actually not allowed in the township by ordinance, but occasionally people will hire someone who uses the topping technique. This ordinance is not currently enforced but needs to be to protect the trees in the township from serious damage.
3. Spring Park Tree Planting: Erik Josephson has submitted a preliminary bid for 15 trees of five varieties, for a total cost of about \$4,900. Jay Finnigan approved this bid, so we can proceed to make the final tree selection and reserve a spot on Erik's schedule. When the snow finally melts, we will take a field trip to locate the final planting sites for these 15 trees.
4. Shade Tree List: Joan sent via email the Easton list that Bill had received. It is a lengthy, detailed listing of the shade trees that are approved for planting in Easton. Joan will develop a new list for Hanover Township based on this Easton list and the City of Bethlehem shade tree list. Joan will get the Bethlehem printed brochures that include the approved shade tree list and planting guidelines to each board member in the near future. By township ordinance, dead street trees must be replaced by the property owner, and a permit is required at no cost to the applicant. Most of the dead trees on Kathi Drive were ash trees that succumbed to the Emerald Ash borer infestation, although some were treated and did survive. Most of the trees planted to replace the dead ash trees are Red Maples, which is a problem since they are a preferred host tree for spotted lanternflies. As Joan works on revising the shade tree list, she will send us each a working list for our review.
5. Missing Street Trees: Joan sent a list to the zoning department of about seven trees that are missing in the neighborhoods, but she has not yet received a reply. If you see any addresses that are missing a street tree, note that address and send it along to Joan so she can then report it to zoning.
6. Old/New Business: Mary Ellen met with Jacob's Tree Service at Troxell Park to get an estimate on pruning the trees that need it. Many of the zelkovas along the street at Troxell park were planted incorrectly and would definitely benefit from having root collar work done. There was also some concern about the gingko tree in the same park. Joan contacted Joshua Tree and Glenn Myster to get estimates for this park, but those meetings have not

happened yet. It was suggested and discussed to have a set amount budgeted annually to take care of the existing trees in the township.

Bill asked about the arborvitae trees that have been damaged by heavy snow this winter along Crawford—what is the township policy on replacing them? Joan replied that it is the homeowner's responsibility to replace them.

With no new plans to review, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 pm.

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 29, 2021, at 6 p.m., and again it will be via Zoom. Joan thanked Jay for hosting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Cook