

Hanover Township Shade Tree Advisory Board

The monthly meeting of the Shade Tree Advisory Board was held at the Hanover Township Board Room on Monday, March 28, 2022, at 5:30 pm. In attendance were Blair Bates, Mary Kay Brezinsky, Jane Cook, Mary Ellen O'Connell, Marianne Rivera, Gamini Vedage and Joan Witiak.

1. The minutes of the February meeting (date: March 3, 2022) were approved after a motion made by Mary Kay and seconded by Joan. The minutes of the January meeting were approved via email responses from those in attendance at the January meeting.
2. **Park Tree Planting/Spring Tree Planting and Maintenance Updates:** Erik Josephson planted 11 trees at College Heights, Delta Manor, Crawford Parks and at Birchwood Heights near Stoke Park Road. He also finished structure pruning the trees he had recently planted. Most of the Township parks trees have been mulched correctly by the work crews. The Township has a newer truck with a larger watering tank, which will make the job of keeping the newly planted trees properly irrigated during the hot summer months. Possibly Erik can come back in the Fall to do more structure pruning, especially those trees in First Responders Park. Discussion centered on the need to mark several dead trees at the various parks so that the Township crews can remove them and the need to root-spade and prune the Zelkova trees at Troxell Park.
3. **Missing Street Trees forward plan:** Marianne reported that she has compared the street trees in the Birchwood I and Birchwood II areas of the Township with those that are shown on the original plans, but many of the trees shown on the plan are now in a different place, in some cases where a driveway is shown on the plan. Blair pointed out that in the construction business, changes sometimes must be made due to unforeseen circumstances, and such things as trees will probably be put in a slightly different location as a result. So the comparison process to the original plans will not be a helpful one in determining what should be done about missing street trees. Marianne will review the Birchwood areas and note which addresses do not have a street tree. She will meet with Yvonne Kutz to discuss next steps. Should there be a new ordinance? Should the existing ordinance be enforced, and, if so, how would it be enforced? In the past, Yvonne sent out letters and residents either paid the fine or didn't, with no recourse. She will offer to help Yvonne with developing a workable plan and will take the maps to Yvonne to be scanned and added to Yvonne's existing files. Until 2009, the Shade Tree Advisory Board sent the letter to addresses with missing street trees, a process that changed when the Township took over this task. Gamini reported that when he put his house on the market, he had to replace a street tree, which is not being applied consistently throughout the Township. Mary Kay and Mary Ellen put together over the past few months a list of addresses with missing street trees, and Mary Kay will send the list to Marianne. Marianne will review this list and the Birchwood I and II list when she meets with Yvonne this month and will report back to the Board at the April meeting. She hopes to get a decision as to who will send out the letter to missing street tree addresses and what the follow-up will be to that letter.
4. **Update on Schoenersville Medical Office Building plan revisions:** Jane reported that the revised plans do reflect the concerns raised in the January 10, 2022, comment letter. Additional tree species were included, and the Sugar Maples that were in the prior plan have been replaced with Autumn Gold Gingko, as suggested in our January comments.

5. **Developing Top 5 items for 2022:** Discussion centered on the need for air spading and structure pruning of the park trees; marking and removing the dead trees in the parks; planting replacement trees in the Fall; replacing missing street trees throughout the Township; and creating a multi-year plan so that important items can be put into a long-range and continuing budget stream.
6. **Old/New Business:** Jane will be submitting the next newsletter article to Jay prior to the mid-May deadline. The topic will be how residents can make a spotted lanternfly trap using directions supplied by Penn State Extension as an alternative to the sticky tape bands that are also available.
7. The next Shade Tree Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 25, 2022, at 5:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Cook