

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, April 25, 2022, at 5:30 pm. In attendance were Blair Bates, Mary Kay Brezinsky, Jane Cook, Mary Ellen O'Connell, Marianne Rivera, and Joan Witiak.

1. The minutes of the March 28 meeting were approved with no changes after a motion made by Mary Kay and seconded by Joan.
2. **Park Tree Planting/Spring Tree Planting Updates:** Mary Ellen reported that since the local Lion's Club is disbanding as an organization due to decline in membership, they have offered to use their remaining funds to plant six trees near the pavilion at Municipal Park in honor of their six members. The Township crew will plant the trees, and Mary Ellen offered to assist them with that planting.
3. **Park Tree Pruning and Maintenance Updates:** Mary Ellen forwarded an article about oak wilt to Marty and to Vince to remind them that the best way to prevent oak wilt is to NOT prune any oak trees between April 1 and October 31 each year. Oak wilt has decimated many oak trees across the U.S. in recent years. It is preventable, but only if the pruning guidelines are followed. This can be difficult, since many of the oak tree varieties do not look like the typical oak tree, so it can be hard to recognize that a given tree is an oak tree. To avoid pruning oaks between April and October, it is best to **limit all deciduous tree pruning to the winter months**, which is actually the preferred time to prune all trees, since they are dormant and can recover from the pruning much more easily than if it is done during the spring, summer and early fall. Licensed arborists are aware of this, and the township crews should be, too.

Gamini and Mary Kay marked the dead trees in Pharo Park, but they have not yet been removed because the Township is awaiting the arrival of a new chipper. Jane noted that all the above-noted and other recently completed work is really a great accomplishment for this board, and she expressed her appreciation to all who are doing so much for the Township's trees. These trees are a remarkable, positive feature of this community in the Township's parks, residential and commercial areas.

There should be enough money in the current budget to do the root collar work on the Troxell Park trees that really do need to be air-spaded, and Mary Ellen will discuss this with Jay.

4. **Missing Street Trees forward plan:** Marianne reported that she met with Yvonne Kutz and offered to help her with the lengthy process of getting missing street trees replaced. Yvonne gave her the letter that residents receive if there is a missing street tree on their property, the list of acceptable street trees, and the follow-up letters if the replacement tree has not yet been planted. After the lists that Mary Kay and Mary Ellen compiled of the missing street trees in the different neighborhoods are compared to the list that Yvonne has in her records, Marianne will verify which addresses still have not planted a replacement tree. Marianne will drive to the addresses to verify that the address still needs a street tree and get that information to Yvonne. Yvonne agreed to follow up to enforce the Township street tree ordinance. Marianne's goal is to assist Yvonne in the time-consuming process of getting the street trees planted at all addresses that currently need them.

5. **Progress on newsletter article to be submitted to Jay:** Jane sent the article to Jay on April 19. It tells how to capture spotted lanternflies to prevent damage to Township trees and includes a link to Penn State Extension for directions on making a trap that is more effective than the sticky bands, which tend to capture beneficial insects and birds, etc. She worked with Emelie Swackhamer from Penn State Extension to research the article.
6. **Plans from Hanover Engineering:** Blair received two sets of plans late this afternoon for the Farmhouse Village plan development. One set is to show the subdivision of the area to reflect that part of it is in Hanover Township and the other part is in East Allen Township, which has no need for review by the Shade Tree Board. The Board reviewed the landscape plans and agreed to the need for a few comments that Jane will write up and send to the Township.
7. **Developing Top 5 items for 2022:** Tabled to the next meeting.
8. **Old/New Business:** none
9. The next Shade Tree Advisory Board meeting will be determined since the last Monday in May is Memorial Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Cook