

# Long Hill Township Shade Tree Commission

## Meeting Minutes

### March 21, 2016

**Attendees:** Melanie Palmer Burdorf, Don Farnell, Phyllis Fast, Susan Jeans, Tom Malinousky, Peter O'Neill, Guy Piserchia, Paul Tamburri, Mary DeLello (recorder)

**Absent:**

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Susan.

**Approval of November 16, 2015 and February 22, 2016 minutes:** Guy moved and Peter seconded approval of November 16, 2015 all in favor, minutes approved. Guy moved, Peter seconded approval of February 22, 2016 all in favor, minutes approved.

#### **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

1. **Treasurer's Report:** \$9,787.14 is the same balance.
2. **Environmental Day at Millington School:** Paul is tentatively saying yes.
3. **Challenge Grant Program for the Spring:** Don forwarded article to Echoes, same as last year's price and STC will buy 20 trees with April 23<sup>rd</sup> as the cut-off date. Not sure what kind of trees but mostly maples and oaks.
4. **Environmental Day at Millington School May 17<sup>th</sup> or May 18<sup>th</sup> as rain date:** Need volunteers to help Susan. Paul is tentatively saying yes.
5. **Review our Tree Removal Ordinance:** Existing ordinance was put in place in 1985 and basically deals with street trees and private land that is to be developed. Land that is to be developed is where owner does not occupy land cannot take down trees without submitting plan and getting permit. The proposed plan accepted in 2010 was excised down to what was already on the books. In David Welch's proposal, a tree that was diseased or under 6" in diameter wouldn't count toward the 3 trees per ½ acre tree removal needing a permit. He proposed it as a trip wire. If proposed ordinance included percentage based on lot size it might be easier to get approved. David offered to revisit ordinance and rewrite. Susan will ask David Welch if he will rewrite ordinance to be more inclusive and to include percentage based on lot size and to have residents required to obtain a permit. Phyllis will work with David. Susan will get back to Guy. STC suggests having an arborist for the town. There might be a possibility to share services with another municipality.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Financial Disclosure Forms for 2016:** determined that STC needs to submit. Form hasn't been sent out yet. Susan moved that STC support Peter in objecting to Jack's three page document saying the STC is an independent commission and needs to file financial disclosure forms. Don seconded, all in favor.
2. **Application for development at 78 Gates Avenue, Gillette:** Susan has comments from Don.
3. **Application for development of 109 Basking Ridge Road, Millington:** Don was waiting for final planting plans and got them and approved. Susan will email Don's comments to Cindy.

4. **Update on Golden Application Meeting:** Doesn't look like anything is happening at this point. Remove from agenda.

In general, STC would like to contact the Environmental Committee to have a joint meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Application for Development at the Meyersville Veterinarian Office:** Susan showed plans to the STC. Meyersville Veterinarian office is moving to Warren Ave in Stirling and need use variance.
2. **Emerald Ash Borer:** It's not been proven that treatment works. Put on agenda for next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. Don moved, Susan seconded, all in favor.

► Next meeting: **Monday, April 25, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Library.**

Submitted by,  
Mary DeLello, Recorder