

Long Hill Township Shade Tree Commission

Minutes from May 23, 2022

Attendees: Ann Cade, Mary Ellen Grunther, Susan Jeans, Gordon Redgate, Paul Tamburri, and Mary DeLello (recorder)

Absent: Theresa Dill, Phyllis Fast, Al Gallo, Peter O'Neill, and Guy Piserchia

Meeting called to order at 7:11 by Susan

Susan moved to accept the minutes from the April 25, 2022 meeting, Mary Ellen seconded, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Spring Challenge Grant Completed** – Ann chose a Red Bud and a Dogwood, both of which are beautiful and thriving. In total, fifteen trees were planted. Al and his team did a good job however there was an issue at Robert Lin's property. He had ordered two Norway Spruce; one was planted too deep, and the second tree rolled down hill and two branches were broken. DPW purchased and planted a new tree to replace the second Norway Spruce. STC will replace tree planted too deep and there is money in the budget to cover the cost. Robert Lin is OK with replacement tree being planted this Fall.
- 2. Community Tree Recovery Program – Bare Root Program Completed** – Impact story interviews are being conducted. Out of a total of 300 saplings received, only 15 Mockernut saplings remain.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Restructure Challenge Grant** – Susan asked for the Committee to think of ways to restructure the Challenge Grant and ideas would be discussed at the next meeting. One or two trees are lost each grant season so possibly looking into having trees professionally planted. It would cost \$500 per tree to have them professionally planted. DPW doesn't have the equipment to plant heavy ball and burlapped trees such as Red Oak. May have to go out for a bid for installation. A banner could be used to advertise. Mary Ellen will check on a price. Change to program may be a tiered approach, where certain trees are one price and are to be planted in the right-of-way, and other trees cost a different amount and can be placed anywhere on the homeowner's property.
- 2. Landmark Trees** – will be done in the next 2 – 3 weeks
- 3. Pamphlet Distribution** – Mary will check on purchase
- 4. Grants** – Grants Galore is a listing of grants that Alec McCartney, State Forester with the DEP gave to Susan. The possibility of applying for a grant to cover projects was discussed.
- 5. Budget** - Gordon will email Brendan and Guy and ask about money for tree project and ask if monies will it be in this year's budget.
- 6. Tree City** - Gordon sent Guy picture of Tree City flag and asked it to be placed on flag pole in front of the municipal building.
- 7. Tree Ordinance** – need enforcement of ordinance by fining tree cutters and homeowners

Susan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10, Gordon seconded, all in favor.

►Next meeting: **Monday, June 20, 2022 at 7:00 PM, at the LHT First Aid Squad Room**

Submitted by Mary DeLello, Recorder