**Pennington Borough Shade Tree Committee**

**Meeting of September 14, 2021 7:30 pm**

**Via Zoom, Meeting ID:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86971339053?pwd=b2FXa1hoWjhxN1lQdlpDM0ZtemROQT09](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F86971339053%3Fpwd%3Db2FXa1hoWjhxN1lQdlpDM0ZtemROQT09&data=04%7C01%7C%7C49340332a1ba4129340008d977a8591b%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637672387200870118%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=gQoUmg3w8XI%2B4Cf3WgOcOkg5jLB7IFDt75CC7%2FMOa7Y%3D&reserved=0)

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Kate Fullerton, Mary Wagner, Rick Smith, Kati Anagrone, Morris Fabian, Mike Rheinhardt, and Gabe Rosko.

**Open Public Meeting Statement** was read and the meeting was opened.

The meeting began with a discussion regarding the need for a Chair for the remainder of the year. It was decided that the committee can work together to fill the roll of Chair, rather than nominated and approve someone new.

It was noted that the Mayor will be hosting a meeting on September 22 at 7pm with Committee Chairs to discuss the budget process, particularly goals and budget numbers, for the next year. Ms. Angarone offered to attend this meeting and report back at the October meeting.

The Committee discussed the budget. Mr. Smith offered to review last year’s line-item budget and provide it to the Committee. It was recognized that this Committee would need to meet at least once more to propose a budget.

In regards to the budget, there was a question if all 80 hazardous trees have been removed. It was noted that the Inventory should have the at-risk trees noted. With all of the street work that has been done recently, it was suggested that most of the original 80 trees have probably been removed. There could be new trees, however. As we have all made notes about tree health in the inventory, Public Works can review the Inventory and see how many trees are hazardous and report back at the next meeting.

The Committee decided to focus on recommending the Committee budget and the bucket truck to the Borough Council.

It was noted that East Welling will be redone soon, so the tree issues on that street will be taken care of then.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the June 8, 2021 meeting were approved with a few comments.

It was noted that the June minutes included a discussion about the budget from the spring.

It was also suggested that we should be better with our Inventory, so we know if we are at Zero Net Loss for Borough trees. There was a question of whether Zero Net Loss is good enough.

The Committee discussed education goals, particularly in relation to an education budget, as well as generally how to get residents to attend educational sessions. An Ask the Arborist presentation was suggested, perhaps like the library presentations. All members were encouraged to think of a session prior to the next meeting. It was noted that TMS and CHS have a climate change curriculum. Perhaps we could do a presentation to these groups. Maybe the Arts Council could help?

**Trimming and removal report and tree action request:** Mr. Fabian reported that since June Mr. Fabian has been working on the 2022 planting grant locations. He will continue to look for more locations. Mr. Smith offered to start a new email thread for members to alert each other of potential new locations.

The Ash trees along Bixby Way were removed by Public Works.

The 2018 grant was closed out. The State was very pleased with Mr. Fabian’s work. This helps us with future grants.

The County responded quickly to a tree removal issue on South Main recently.

Mr. Fabian also reported that the Borough is working on new trees for Burd Street.

A large Oak tree needs to be taken down by the well house on Sked.

The Senior Center has Ash trees and a Silver Maple that needs to be removed.

The Public Works Department is working on upgrading Kunkle Park. There will be new playground equipment and some trees will be removed. Bids are being solicited for the work.

The tree planting for Bev Willever at Sked Park went well. A few more memorial tree requests have come into Borough Hall.

There is still some pruning that needs to be done.

It was noted that the Shade Tree Federation annual conference will be at the end of October.

There was no Council Update, as no Council Member was present.

The next Shade Tree Committee meeting will be on October 5, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned.