

Pennington Borough Shade Tree Committee

Meeting of March 2, 2021 7:30 pm

Via Zoom, Meeting ID:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82624693515?pwd=Z0JiQWl2eUFTTndVbXQzMEdnQ0Zndz09>

Minutes

Present: Chris Brookes, Eileen Heinzl, Kate Fullerton, Mary Wagner, Mike Rheinhardt, Kati Angarone, Gabe Rosko, Gabrielle Canavera, Morris Fabian, Rick Smith, and Kate Dunham.

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 2, 2021 meeting were approved.

Business

Council Update – Budget, Burd Street, Pennington Borough Arboretum: Ms. Heinzl stated that the Council will be working on a budget tree plan, starting with the road projects. The Burd Street project will be the first one. Tree funding will be determined as the project wraps up.

The purchase of the land for the Arboretum is still being finalized.

Tree Inventory: Mr. Brookes thanked Ms. Canavera for her work on updating the inventory. The tree lists were sent out for each quadrant. Mr. Brookes asked a basic status of the trees in the quadrants by the end of May.

Tree Give-Away: Ms. Fullerton attempted to reach out to FOHVOS (Lisa Wolff) to discuss their participation in this program, but they are exchanging emails and phone calls. Ms. Angarone noted that Pennsylvania is planning to plant ten million trees using a public-private partnership, so there may be a model there.

Green Week /Arbor Day: The discussion of the two events revolved around the two trees that will be needed and where they will be planted.

It was noted that, as part of the fall purchase, there is an extra Kwanzan Cherry tree. Ms. Fullerton stressed the importance of being able to close the street for the Arbor Day celebration for the safety of the first graders from Toll Gate, as well as the importance of spreading out due to the pandemic. It was suggested that the last island along Main Street, by the African American Cemetery would be a protected area that would be easy to close off. Ms. Fullerton will confirm that this location is good with Chief Pinelli and Ms. Heinzl. The Kwanzan Cherry will be the Arbor day tree.

Weather permitting, there will be two live events for tree planting: the Arbor Day celebration on April 30, and the Arboretum, as part of Green Week, on April 21. A tree will be needed for the Arboretum. Mr. Fabian will purchase an October Glory Maple from Site One.

Seedlings: Mr. Rheinhardt is planning to order seedlings for giving away at the Arbor Day and Green Week events.

Trifold brochure, Website, and Newsletter: Ms. Wagner reported on the proposed additions to the Shade Tree section of the website. Everyone liked the work she has done so far. She needs a list of recommended trees for the Borough. Mr. Rosko will provide that to her. It was agreed that there should be a link to the Tree City USA site. It was also recommended that there should be a link for interested participants to join the committee. It was also noted that agendas and minutes should be posted. Ms. Fullerton suggested adding the “How to Kill a Tree” poster link from the State.

Ms. Angarone submitted her piece to the newsletter that goes out with the water bill.

Mr. Rheinhardt reported on the progress of the trifold brochure. He has edited the trifold so it is less wordy. He hopes to get it out to members in March. It was agreed that the brochure information should be brief.

Educational courses: Ms. Wagner and Mr. Brookes have taken classes from Backyard Forestry this year - Identifying Trees in Winter. Mr. Brookes will be taking the CORE Training in March. Mr. Smith and Mr. Rosko highly recommended the CORE Training to help understand the importance of this committee.

Trimming and removal report and tree action request: Mr. Fabian reported on tree plantings, pruning, and removals. The Coleman Memorial Tree has been planted on lower King George Road.

It was noted that the Parks and Recreation Committee is reviewing all the parks and equipment for conformance with current regulations and as a larger planning effort.

There has been no pruning so far this year.

There are the two plantings scheduled for Green Week and Arbor Day.

At 195W. Welling Avenue a Zelcova was removed by DPW.

At 3 Eglantine an evergreen was removed by DPW.

A maple at 80 Burd Street needs to be removed by a contractor.

A maple at 17 Laning Avenue needs to be removed by a contractor.

There is an Ash at 404 Burd Street that needs to be removed - this can be done by DPW.

There are a potential 15 to 20 locations for tree plantings. Mr. Fabian is waiting to confirm these locations with utilities. The Burd Street project, however, may take some funding away.

The Borough received a year extension for the 2018 Tree Grant and final documentation. The Borough may not need the extension. Mr. Fabian will work with Mr. Rosko to confirm the success of the plantings once the weather breaks.

There was a discussion regarding the Borough's bucket truck. It appears that the truck is no longer repairable and the Borough ideally needs to acquire a replacement one. Committee members unanimously agreed that a Borough bucket truck is highly desirable. Ms. Fullerton offered to draft a letter of support. It was noted that without a truck, the Borough would have to pay a contractor for all tree services.

The next Shade Tree Committee meeting will be on April 6, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned.