

Pennington Borough Shade Tree Committee
Meeting of March 14, 2023, 7:30 pm
Online via Zoom

Minutes

Members Present: Cecile Vidican, Mike Rheinhardt, Moe Fabian, Kate Fullerton, Nadine Stern and Jaye Berman.

Members of the Public Present: M. Moore

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

Approval of Minutes: Approval of meeting minutes from the last meeting on January 3, 2023, was postponed to the next meeting, scheduled for April 11, 2023.

Old Business

The Chair stated she would be sending an email to Rick Smith requesting a status update on the Salem Oak seedling that Pennington Borough was supposed to have received.

With regard to the Pennington Borough Arboretum, Mr. Fabian reported that one bid quote had been received to date. Ms. Stern noted progress has been made in obtaining pricing on deer exclosures.

Mr. Rheinhardt confirmed there is a new Shade Tree banner and shared a photo.

New Business

The Chair requested a report of tree trimming and outstanding resident requests. Mr. Fabian said a bid has been approved, but the P.O. still needs to be generated for the Sked Park work. He also reported that in response to the tree request that had been received for 119 Laning Avenue, Tom's Tree Service will be removing any dead wood in the oak tree in addition to clearing the roof line.

In response to Ms. Stern asking whether there should be clarification between the Borough and County tree request processes on the STC website. Ms. Vidican volunteered to write a post to that effect and to submit it to the Borough for posting online.

The Chair provided background on the Streetscape II project, and Ms. Stern announced there will be a public meeting on the project on March 28 from 6:00-8:00 p.m., and that relevant materials would be available at Borough Hall and on the Borough website.

The Chair reported she had contacted Carolyn McGrath, the co-facilitator of the Hopewell Valley Regional School District Green Team, who along with Helen Corveleyn, STEM facilitator at Hopewell Elementary School, will coordinate with the STC on future Arbor Day preparations. Discussion ensued regarding reaching out to Alan Hershey on the Open Space Committee and the Green Team, with Ms. Vidican volunteering to get in touch with Ms. Corveleyn regarding future Arbor Day efforts.

For this year, however, the STC will continue to conduct the tree planting ceremony at Tollgate Elementary School. Mr. Fabian reported he has ordered the tree to be planted and will pick it up shortly; he will also prep the planting location. Ms. Stern asked about the date, which will be April 28, 2023, with the time still to be determined. Ms. Vidican volunteered to place a notice of the public ceremony in Mercerne, and Ms. Stern asked her to also send it to Betty Sterling to be posted as a news item through

the Borough's e-alert system. Discussion continued with regard to the number of bookmarks and tree slices ("cookies") to be displayed and distributed.

The Chair added an agenda item, Pennington Day, which will be May 20, 2023. Discussion followed concerning books marks to be distributed, the tree slab to display, and the tree needed for the raffle, which Mr. Fabian said he would arrange. Mr. Rheinhardt suggested creating an additional tree slab to award as a runner-up raffle prize. Mr. Fabian expressed willingness to cut an additional slab but noted the additional finishing efforts that would be required.

Ms. Stern provided a Council update, reporting the Council held another meeting with the Committee chairs, agreeing to continue meeting in February, May and October, as they provide a good opportunity for sharing important Council updates and allow Committee chairs to discuss their connected initiatives. Chairs were asked to review and update their websites and encouraged to provide Council newsletter updates. With regard to the Sked Street Park project, Ms. Stern noted a group of Council members met at the park and revised the plans significantly. The new proposal, which has been vetted by Public Works and Parks and Recreation, will be presented at a public meeting of nearby residents.

Pending any schedule conflicts, the next Committee meeting will be April 11, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned.