

Pennington Borough Shade Tree Committee

Meeting of June 7, 2022 7:30 pm

Via Zoom, Meeting ID:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87551706982?pwd=NTR1aXFXQnhkanU1WDRBMFNoVWdVUT09>

Minutes

Members Present: Suzen Witcher, Cecile Vidican, Mike Rheinhardt, Gabe Rosko (8:45), Nadine Stern, Todd McDonald, Morris Fabian, Rick Smith, and Kate Fullerton. **Public Present:** Steve Rabbe

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

Approval of Minutes: All in favor of the approval of the May 3, 2022 minutes.

Old Business

Committee members reported on Pennington Day. The Chair expressed appreciation for all who worked that during that hot day. Ms. Vidican has written a thank you letter to the landscaping business that provided the winning tree. Mr. Rosko has the tent and supplies, while Mr. Rheinhardt has the tree slab and bookmarks. Mr. Smith offered to find space in the Public Works office to store the supplies. The Committee does not own its own tent. There was also a concern expressed that it would be nice if we could confirm that the winning tree could be planted in New Jersey, if not Hopewell Valley. It was pointed out that there was no way to track the tree and eventual planting location.

The Annual Accomplishment Report has been completed and can be removed from the agenda.

Status report on Grant Trees: Due to an emergency issue the Public Works Department has had to deal with, the Borough Council will hire a contractor to plant the 20 trees as quickly as possible. The value of this work is low enough that the Borough does not need to go out for bid and can quickly get three quotes from vendors to do the work.

Mr. Fabian provided his report on Tree Trimming and Removal. The tree plantings for East Welling will be fall plantings. There have been a number of tree requests forms submitted:

There is a dead tree at the end of Reading. It is coned off until it will be removed.

The north side of the intersection of Rockwell Green and King George has a ?

There are two dead Ash trees by the pump house on King George.

There is a dead Ash tree in Kunkle Park by the play equipment.

There is a dead Ash tree in Sked Park.

There is a dead Sycamore on West Welling and 400 South Main Street.

There is a dying Maple at 4 West Welling.

Public Works has discussed a few County trees with the Mercer Shade Tree Committee:

11 East Delaware has an Oak Tree suffering from Bacterial Leaf Scorch.

Large Maple on 400 South Main Street and West Welling

Mr. Smith requested documentation from the Shade Tree Committee for recommended actions in response to these requests. The Committee decided to meet during the summer to review the requests. The Chair will work on a statement that can be used as a standard response.

Ms. Stern provided an update from the Borough Council. Ms. Stern and Ms. Vidican met with the Mayor to discuss the Commission/Committee concern. The Mayor will discuss this with the Borough Attorney and respond to us.

The meeting was opened for public comment. Steve Rabbe from 153 East Delaware asked about the species of trees that have been purchased for the 20 trees to be planted, and where the trees will be planted. Mr. Fabian responded to this question reviewing the history of tree plantings in Pennington and the current policy of the right tree for the right location. Trees are planted where feasible and appropriate, when the soil is ready for a new tree.

The Committee will determine a date for a meeting before the end of June, and then meet on September 13, not the Tuesday after Labor Day.

The meeting adjourned.