

NEW HOPE BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for January 18, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Gloria Broeker, Chairperson

Others present: Anita Maximo; Frank DeLuca; Anna Davis, A Garden in Thyme; Les Isbrandt, Kingswood resident; Ed Duffy, resident; Lori Stagnitto, Solebury resident

Absent: Krayl Funch; Bob Margadonna; Laurie McHugh, Council Liaison

The minutes for the November 16th meeting were approved.

Old Business

- Bare Root Tree Planting:
 - PHS bare root trees were planted in Riverwoods (25 trees), next to the Community Room (4 trees) and at Ferry Landing (1 tree). **Update:** Bob updated the planting locations to the Urban Cloud. We will do follow up site visits in the spring to monitor the health of the new trees.
- Pending items:
 - Potential grant opportunities. **Update:** No update.
 - **TCUSA & Growth Award** – both applications were submitted. **Update:** Waiting to hear back on status.

New Business

- **Applications:**
 - Les Isbrandt, resident, Kingswood I, submitted two applications for tree maintenance: Kingswood has two entrance medians – St. Andrews Court at Stoney Hill and Kingswood Drive at Sугan Road. The median area off of Kingswood at Sугan has two dead trees. Requested that these be removed and replaced. On St. Andrews Court are pear trees. Tom Carroll's crew pruned these trees in the past. Requested to have the trees pruned again. Gloria will check with the Borough Zoning officer to be sure that the Borough has ownership of the median areas. Once confirmed, these street trees can be included in the Borough's annual street tree inventory that will be conducted in May. Appropriate action will then be taken to remove / replace dead trees and trim the pear trees. A copy of the Approved List of Trees was provided for consideration in Kingswood. Les also needs to check on the signage area to know who owns that land. The signage is in need of maintenance. Gloria will check with Pete Gray, Borough Manager and get back to Les.
- Lori Stagnitto, Solebury resident: Concerned about care of trees at 136 N. Main Street. The house at this address was torn down and the site is now under construction. Some trees were removed and one large sycamore tree remains. Peter Edwardson of Edwardson Construction was observed trimming the sycamore tree, which was not to be touched. Construction materials are being stored on top of the tree's roots. Lori provided photos of the site. The sycamore is not a street tree so it is not under the Commission's jurisdiction. Gloria recommended that Lori forward the photos to the Borough's manager and the zoning officer and follow up with them. Another option is to attend a Zoning meeting to discuss these issues in person. Lori is also concerned about trees on the property of 181 W. Bridge Street. The building is going to be demolished. Robert Hillier, property owner, allowed her access to the site. She said that the trees have tags on them and provided photos. The tags appear to be from an inventory that was done at the site; however, they are not street trees and are not on the Borough's tree inventory. We will do a site visit to see the trees.
- Ed Duffy, resident: Wanted to participate in our conversation with the Parks & Recreation (P & R) Committee. Although asked to send a representative, there was no one from P & R at the meeting. Ed is concerned about the maintenance of three parks in town. He worked with the Borough's Public Works crew to review the conditions of the parks last September. The Commission will be partnering with P& R on tree maintenance within the parks. Gloria will talk with Beth Hasher of P & R next week.

- **Arbor Day – New Hope Historical Society (NHHS) partnership:**
 - Anna Davis, A Garden in Thyme, attended to talk about the environmental conservation project on The Parry Mansion property. This is a multi-year project. Two mature trees with internal decay (white pine and honey locust) were removed in early January.
 - The Commission will be helping with three or four “major” replacement trees. NHHS is also looking to add more trees and would like to purchase some bare root trees through PHS. The PHS Species List was provided and Anna will get back to Gloria by January 31 with a list of trees to purchase for The Parry Mansion.
 - The Commission will partner with NHHS to do an Arbor Day Event. Gloria will invite Cindy Hall to our February 15th meeting.
- **P & R Committee Collaboration:** Will discuss in February.
- **Budget 2023:** Will discuss in February.
- **Social Media Presence:** Laura Kent updates the Borough’s Facebook page. Will discuss in detail in February.
- **Bucks Beautiful:** Fall plantings of bulbs. This can be discussed P & R along with Arbor Day collaboration.
- Long-term plans for the STC:
 - Ideas for **future plantings**; bare root tree options; Bucks Beautiful / business partnering.
 - Tree Tender group pruning: plan to partner with others in 2023.
 - Establish a long-range street tree replacement plan, incorporating prudent risk management techniques and trending conditions noted in the tree inventory; to be done in conjunction with TCUSA Growth Award outline.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Next meeting: February 15, 2022, 6:00 p.m.