

NEW HOPE BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for August 28, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Gloria Broeker, Chairperson

Others present: Anita Maximo; Frank DeLuca; Laurie McHugh, Council Liaison; EJ Lee, Borough Manager; Ed Duffy, Resident; and Ralph Fey, Jennifer Sofia, Paul Cohen, and Mark Baker for the Logan Inn

Absent: Ron Gering

The minutes for the June 19th meeting were approved.

Note: The July 2019 meeting was cancelled. The August 2019 meeting was moved from the original date of August 21st to August 28th.

Old Business:

- Pending items:
 - Letters to property owners regarding dead trees; update based on a physical review of trees and identification of property owners. **Update:** Checking to see if a letter went out last November to the property owner at the Aaron Burr House.
 - Riverwoods HOA communication regarding zoning and STC compliance. **Update:** In June, Gloria and Anita provided information at the annual Riverwoods HOA meeting regarding the Commission, and that trees along the streets in Riverwoods do not fall within the jurisdiction of the Commission. However, the Borough's Zoning ordinances do apply for trees in Riverwoods with dbh 15" and greater.

New Business

- New applications: Logan Inn landscape plan. Ralph Fey provided Land Development plans for the Logan Inn. All trees on the plan are existing trees. What is underground is impacting the tree roots. On West Ferry Street is the water easement that goes up to the building (Logan Inn). Not allowed to plant trees there. Only one existing tree is along the edge of the parking lot and that tree will remain. Between the back of the building and the parking lot there will be a rain garden to allow for drainage, which will include shrubs. The three zelkovas on South Main will remain. There is one Norway maple near the building on West Ferry that is in question. Requesting to remove this large tree and replace it with a smaller, airier tree species. The Norway spruce that is to be moved may not survive and perhaps should be replaced with a different species that is slower growing. This tree is not an historic tree. We will look for the arborist/landscape architect to make a recommendation on tree species. Their recommendation would then come back to the Commission for approval. The trees between Marsha Brown and the Logan Inn do not fall under the Commission's jurisdiction. Regarding the waiver No. 5, the decrease in the impervious surface is approximately 3.6%. This would make the pervious surface approximately 12.5%, so this waiver may not be needed. They will review and get back to us on that. Waiver is requesting a reduced number of street trees because the location where they would be planted is not available due to the water easement and sewer expansion; this waiver is recommended for approval. No. 9 is requesting a waiver on the requirement for 1 tree for every 5 parking spaces. There would have been 11 additional trees. No. 12 is requesting a waiver to allow construction in the tree protection zone. The plans do not clearly identify the tree protection zone for other existing trees besides those near Marsha Brown. This would be revisited at 18 months to see if any trees have died. When asked if there would be any improvements on the tree pits on S. Main Street we were told "No". Next steps: will go to Council for approval and EJ will notify the Commission. A summary of these recommendations are as follows:
 - Waiver request from SALDO Section 5.14.B.1 & C.1 – the STC needs clarification on what the exact percentage of site will be devoted to landscaping. If the percentage happens to be more than 10%, then this waiver request is not necessary.
 - Waiver request from SALDO Section 5.14.C.4 – the STC recommends granting this waiver.
 - Waiver request from SALDO Section 5.17.H – the STC recommends this waiver.

- Waiver request from SALDO Section 5.25 – the STC recognizes the need to encroach into the Root Protection Zone, but also recommends that the plans clearly identify where the RPZ is located around each tree to be preserved so that the applicant does their best to work around it.
- The landscape plan proposes the removal of one red maple tree that cannot be replanted on site, therefore, the LD approval should note that a new tree plus the labor to plant the tree is owed to the Borough when a need for a Borough tree comes up.
- The landscape plan proposes moving the existing evergreen from the current site to the proposed new site. The STC recommends removing the evergreen and placing a condition in the LD agreement that the evergreen tree be replaced with a new evergreen tree that is more suitable for the site. The species of the tree is to be reviewed by the STC at a future meeting.
- A review of tree pits on Bridge Street between the river and canal confirmed that several pits are good candidates for porous pave material; **quotes will be solicited** in August for the work to be conducted in September/October.
- Review of long-term plans for the STC:
 - **Formal motion** to apply as a Tree City USA: Gloria and Anita provided a presentation at the July 1st Council Workshop regarding the benefits of being a Tree City and what is required to qualify. We received a positive response to proceed. A motion was made and approved to apply. It will be on the Council agenda for the September 17th meeting, and the proclamation once approved will become a resolution.
 - Establish a long-range street tree replacement plan, incorporating prudent risk management techniques and trending conditions noted in the 2019 tree inventory.
- Ed Duffy, Resident: The Borough needs to do more to improve the sidewalks and curb appeal of the town. Many properties have weeds that are overgrown. EJ stated that there is a new Code Enforcement officer who is handling the enforcement of ordinances, including those on weeds. Ed stated that Village II has an infestation of spotted lantern fly.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting: 7:00 pm on September 18, 2019.