



## STC Meeting Notes

*February 14, 2018*

### Participants

In attendance: Rita Stevens, Tim Gilmour, Joe Ascenzi, Andy Oles, Kathy Weir, Kathryn Helmsley, Donna Rohner

Unable to attend: John Kennedy, Charlie Soboleski, Gita Estersohn, Ed Hayes, Anna Nicolaides, Collin Watson, Mark Wiggins

### Calendar / Events

**Ardasley Wildlife Sanctuary Cleanup-** April 7, 2018 (EAC with STC support)

**Arbor Day** - Saturday, April 28, 9 am to Noon, Roychester Park; includes a rain barrel workshop and riparian planting project

**Next STC meeting-** Wednesday, March 14, 2018, Grove House, 7:30 to 9 pm

### FINANCIAL

**Estimate for Arbor Day planting** for shrubs is \$230. Addition spend for trees TBD. Source for both is STC line item budget.

**Awarded Tree Vitalize Forestry Management Grant for 2018** to support tree ordinance development. \$16,880 total project; \$8,750 DCNR; \$5,250 AT cash match; \$2,880 STC in-kind. Andy completed a board action request to accept.

### ADVISORY

**Vandalism at Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary-** Continued discussion carried out at December and January meetings. STC will issue a position statement in advance of March meeting, which captures nature and degree of damage, estimate of damages, and recommendations for path forward.

**Memorial Island-** Andy presented updated conceptual landscape plan, which was well received by those in attendance. He will continue to work with Township staff to advance the project. Possible funding from donation, GTRP Grant, and veterans' groups. One large oak near PSU dorms is in decline and will need to be removed. Excellent large oak closer to Old York Road will be protected and preserved. Discussed need for a water source and possible approaches.

**BET Investments / YMCA development proposal-** STC will monitor and comment after February 27 Planning Commission meeting

**ASD High School expansion-** STC will monitor and comment as appropriate

**DVRPC Trail expansion starting in Jenkintown-** no apparent need for STC input

**Edgehill Tyson Reconstruction-** continue to monitor and stay involved as construction begins as it impacts Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary- summer 2018?

## PROJECTS

### Planting Projects

**Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary-** bid opening for phase one C2P2 restoration is Friday, February 16

**Roychester Park-** A. Oaks can be dug now through 1/3 pushed out new growth (leaves as big as a squirrel's ear). Rita will follow up with Mike Chenail of Giroud Tree to ask for pro bono assistance with air spade digging. Tim will coordinate with John Capps at Roychester Park for planting these oaks to complete the streetscape replacement project begun in fall 2017. B. Riparian area restoration planned as the centerpiece of Arbor Day celebration on April 28. Began to detail plans captured separately. Event will be 9am to noon, and include a rain barrel workshop hosted by the EAC.

**Crestmont Park-** STC volunteers will plant the remaining CSX trees this spring as a grove to complete a multi-year planting project. We will stay clear of the club house/ construction area

**Fall Bare Root Trees-** our plan is to plant approximately 30 trees in one location this fall. Decision on location to be made at March STC meeting. Decision made to reach out to CS zoned property owners to assess interest, including Manor College, the Ukrainian Center, St Hilary's RC Church, Hillside Cemetery or Willow Hill Community Baptist Church. The STC invites additional ideas.

**Invasive plant management and restoration-** Andy reviewed plans for restoring the BSA Sanctuary and Karebrook properties by Applied Ecological Services and Townscape, respectively. Visible areas, that will contribute to public awareness and education goals. Well received by all, noting that this provides a baseline for prioritization and future restoration of additional areas.

**Grove Park-** Tim solicited ideas for design of new planting bed adjacent to the pollinator garden at the Grove House

## Planning Projects

**Open Space Plan-** discussed the potential of renewing the township Open Space Plan- high priority and interest by the STC to participate. Possible DCNR grant to support in the 2019 application cycle.

## STC ADMINISTRATIVE

**Opening-** Charlie Soboleski is not able to continue his current term, Rita will work with Township staff and Commissioners to advertise and fill opening. Many thanks for Charlie for dedicated service, and for ongoing partnership!

**Annual Report-** Rita will draft for STC review in the coming month, with the goal of finalizing at the March STC meeting

## STC GRANT STRATEGY

**Priorities-** The group reviewed current and potential grants for the 2018-2019 timeframe. Details are captured separately.

## NEWS

**National Lands-** Tim has begun an intensive stewardship training to be completed this spring

**ISA Municipal Specialist Preparation-** Rita recently completed training, supported by a grant from the Delaware Valley Trust

**Alverthorpe Park Upgrades-** Andy shared plans for improving the pond area in 2018. Well received.

**Sandy Run Creek** - discussed how the project on Susquehanna Road fits into the MS4 program

**New Township Staff** - welcome to Amy Riddle, Director of Engineering and Code Enforcement- the STC looks forward to working with you!