

**Abington Township Shade Tree Commission
Meeting Notes- July 8, 2015**

Participants:

Joe Ascenzi, Tim Gilmour, John Kennedy, Anna Nicholaides, Rita Stevens, Kathy Weir

1. TD Green Streets Project

- a. **Survey of suitable planting sites:** We estimate that there are 70 sites suitable for planting trees this fall- 50 residential, 10 business, and 10 park.
 - i. **Residential Sites:** Kathy Weir and Ed Hayes surveyed residential streets within the project area and identified approximately 50 suitable planting sites. With the exception of 1 site, each is suitable for a small or medium tree.
 - ii. **Business sites:** Joe Ascenzi and Rita Stevens surveyed business sites along Easton Road within the project area and identified approximately 10 suitable planting sites. NOTE: Rita Stevens has been in touch with engineering to coordinate permits for planting in the vicinity of the Roslyn Business district.
 - iii. **Grove Park:** Rita and Glen Stevens surveyed sites suitable for planting within Grove Park and identified approximately 10 planting sites

- b. **Tree signup and procurement**
 - i. **Tree selection:** Joe will obtain inventory from Schmidts and Schictels and provide a list of suitable bare root trees for sunny and for shady locations.
 - ii. **Free Tree Flyer:** Anna Nicholaides and Rita Stevens provided a draft flyer to distribution to residents and businesses with suitable planting sites. The group offered refinements and Rita will finalize the flyer to be distributed ASAP, annotated with specific tree recommendations .
Request: Kathy can you take the lead on preparing and distributing the flyers to residential properties? Rita will take the lead for commercial properties.
 - iii. **Enrollment:** We anticipate the need to follow up with property owners to select and schedule a planting date for these free trees, with an order deadline of August 30. Rita will prepare the necessary materials.

- c. **Volunteer Recruitment:**
 - i. **Spring and Summer:** Tim Gilmour and Rita Stevens continue to coordinate watering and care of newly planted trees. We now have two new tree tender volunteers to take on responsibility at Hallowell Park.
 - ii. **Fall:** We estimate that we will need 280 volunteer hours to plant 70 trees, over a three day period: **Thursday, November 12, Saturday November 14 and Sunday November 15.** Rita will prepare a volunteer information

sheet and list of groups to ask. We identified the following groups to ask for participation, and agreed to share in volunteer recruitment.

1. PHS Tree Tenders
 2. PA Forest Stewards- note that Tim Gilmour will train this fall; Rita Stevens to send information to John Kennedy who may also be able to train this fall
 3. Businesses with construction or landscaping related business and skills
 4. Scout groups
 5. Church groups
 6. Universities including Temple Ambler, Montco, Arcadia and PSU
- d. **Supplies:** We plan to order supplies from A. M Leonard, including ¾" bamboo stakes, ties for each tree, and water bags for public trees. Rita will develop a budget for STC review and ordering in August.
- e. **Tools:** We need to reserve as many tools as possible through PHS lending library. Rita will place request, ideally using the PHS tool trailer.

2. Forest Stewardship: Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary

- a. **2008 Land Management Plan:** Michele Kaczalek provided a land management plan for the sanctuary created by Land Concepts in June 2008. This provides a macro (general) plan that the STC intends to build upon with details provided by DCNR, PA Game Commission and PA Forest Stewards. We anticipate having a first draft in August.
- b. **Edge Hill Tyson Reconstruction Project:** Joe Ascenzi and Rita Stevens shared highlights of a public information meeting held in June, and associated discussion with project manager Debra Ferraro. The STC requests that Debra Ferraro meet with STC members Joe Ascenzi, John Kennedy and Rita Stevens to offer guidance on residential trees that will be impacted by the project, and to plan for removal, pruning or replacement, and to discuss how this might be incorporated into the appraisal process. In anticipation of this meeting, Joe Ascenzi will provide GPS coordinates for representative trees, and Glen Stevens will prepare a GPS layer with these coordinates. Rita Stevens will ask Debra Ferraro for available meeting times.
- c. **Environmental Impact:** Debra Ferraro provided the original Environmental Impact Assessment for our review, and Rita shared GPS-tagged photos to assist the planning team.
- d. **STAR:** Rita Stevens reported on a recent meeting with EAC members to include this project in the STAR sustainability audit under the Natural Systems goal area.
- e. **Fall Cleanup :** Rita Steven and Tim Gilmour agreed to take the lead in recruiting 2 or more scout troops to provide a clean up this fall, in conjunction

with the Eagle Project to map the main trails.

- f. **Tree Planting:** Tim Gilmour offered to take the lead for a fall planting project to plant trees in the bench area above the pond, and along East Drive. We agreed to use the STC lien item from the green fund to purchase 10-15 gallon container trees at approximately \$60 each wholesale for this project. Joe Ascenzi will assist with tree selection and procurement.
3. **Fall Tree Goal:** We set a goal to plant 100 trees this fall, with the following priorities
 - a. **TD Green Streets-** 70 bare root trees (see details above)
 - b. **Parkdale Avenue-** approximately bare root 12 trees along Parkdale Avenue. Rita will follow up with the property owner to coordinate tree ordering and assistance with planting and tree care.
 - c. **Ardasley Wildlife Sanctuary-** 10-12 containerized trees; request scout assistance with planting
 - d. **Keswick Avenue-** The honeylocust planted fall of 2014 to replace a dead honeylocust did not survive. We determined the site to be anaerobic, and that the soil will need to be fully excavated and replaced prior to planting a replacement. We recommend that the replacement be suitable for a wetter site. Joe Ascenzi will provide a recommendation. Rita Stevens will request that this work be done through township services.
 - e. **Sale to residents.** We will offer bare root trees for sale to residents who will train and assume responsibility for planting. Kathy Weir will take the lead for coordinating orders.
 4. **Hallowell Park:** Thanks to Parks and Rec for recently planted fringe trees!
 5. **Plant list to support zoning ordinance:** Rita shared highlights of discussion with Mark Penecale, who provided guidance that the STC and EAC should format the recommended tree list to be user friendly for these two groups. Rita will provide a draft outline based on July's STC discussion by month's end. Target completion of a fully edited list is September, for inclusion with the new zoning ordinance draft.
 6. **Advisory:** The group reviewed plans as follows:
 - a. **Holy Trinity Church:** Mr. Necker provided an updated landscape plan. The STC has no further recommendations.
 - b. **Penn State Landscape Plan-** We began to review proposed landscape plans. STC members will gain familiarity with the site in anticipation of a detailed discussion in August. Rita Stevens and Kathy Weir noted that this plan is being factored into the Noble walkability study.

- c. **2066 Moreland Road:** Rita Stevens received a cut sheet for a proposed subdivision and land development application after our meeting. She will seek STC comment in the coming week.
- d. **Pruning Standards:** the STC recommendations pertaining to pruning standards have been incorporated into the township contract for landscaping services.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 12, 7:300 to 9:00 PM