

# Long Hill Township Shade Tree Commission

## Minutes from February 28, 2022

**Attendees:** Ann Cade, Mary Ellen Grunther, Susan Jeans, Gordon Redgate, John Linson, Paul Tamburri, and Mary DeLello (recorder).

**Absent:** Phyllis Fast, Al Gallo, Peter O'Neill, and Guy Piserchia

Meeting called to order at 7:02 by Susan.

Susan moved to accept the minutes from the January 24, 2022 meeting, Gordon seconded, all in favor.

### OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Community Tree Recovery Program** – Christina from the Girl Scouts would like to participate in the program by packaging the seedlings, handing them out, and advertising. Mary will contact Alec from the Tree Recovery Program for marketing materials. Four-hundred seedlings were ordered and will be bundled in groups of five.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### **1. Tree Ordinance Recommendation –**

- a. Tree cutters who perform work without verifying that homeowner has submitted registration forms with the Township, outside of the right away, would be subject to a fine (\$150) in addition to the homeowner.** John Linson believes both parties would be guilty and the fine should be calculated per tree. It costs \$400 to purchase and plant a 12" caliper tree these days. Should be \$150 fine per tree. There is no teeth in the registration and it isn't a permit. Susan said a map needs to be submitted with registration so STC can determine if private tree or a tree in the right-of-way. If homeowner doesn't complete registration and removes a tree, STC would like to have tree replacement cost.
  - i. Tree cutters who take down trees within the right-of-way without the homeowner getting approval from the town (Al Gallo) would be subject to a fine in addition to the homeowner, \$250 fine?** It would be good to have a placard indicating that the registration has been approved. Two trees 6 inches in diameter could be included in the permitting cost of \$5.
- b. Tighten up the measurement criteria for dead-ends and cul-de-sacs in terms of what constitutes the correct distance from center to determine if it is a Township or Private tree.** STC can do this.
- c. Some sort of tree replacement ratio for developers who clear cut lots. (We have a number of these projects currently in the works). 1 – 4 ratio for every tree taken down over 14 inches in diameter? Donation to the trust fund?** Emphasis would be on keeping trees on the perimeter of property. If trees removed on interior of property, STC could have authority to plant trees on perimeter of property working with the Planning Board. Starts with Planning Board asking for STC input on approval. West Orange has ordinance requiring 30% tree canopy coverage for site. Land use part of ordinance. Prefer remediation on property rather than replacement on another site.
- d. Tree cutter needs to be registered with the state.** Board of Tree Experts will say if tree cutter is registered with the state. It's the law that tree cutter has to be registered with the state to perform tree work. On application, have tree cutter have registration number. Inform public that this is the law.

2. **Valley Road Project** – County would be most concerned about who would be responsible for maintenance after planting. There would not be a lot of trees to be concerned about maintenance. Possibility to be part of Challenge Grant.
3. **Challenge Grant** – information needs to go out in March. Price might need to be increased. Black Gum is highly recommended along with a smaller tree like the Kousa Dogwood.

Gordon moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10, Ann seconded, all in favor.

►Next meeting: **Monday, March 28, 2022 at 7:00 PM, location to be determined.**

Submitted by Mary DeLello, Recorder