

Hanover Township Shade Tree Advisory Board

The monthly meeting of the Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Monday, November 20, 2023, at 5:30 pm in the Township office building. In attendance were Jane Cook, Michele Kane, Marianne Rivera, and Gamini Vedage.

1. The minutes of the October 2023, meeting were approved with no changes.
2. **Shade Tree/Sidewalk proposal and Funding proposal update:** This proposal is still pending and was tabled. A permit fee of \$20 was discussed to bring the Township in line with the surrounding municipalities. It would give a source of income that would also make the tree removal and replanting process more codified.
3. **Park Tree Planting, Pruning, Maintenance Updates:** Erik Josephson planted the eleven trees parks this month. Joel at Better Scapes supervised the hazard pruning of several trees in Bluestone Park last Friday He is offering to give the Township a discount for the hazard pruning park tree work done by Better Scapes requiring special equipment that the Township Public Works department does not have. Joel is a registered arborist and can determine if a given tree needs to be removed or can be saved, as pertains to getting a permit to remove a street tree.
4. **Missing Street Trees Update:** Marianne reported that she is finished with Birchwood I except for one address. She will work on Birchwood II in January. Google Pro software may be needed to determine if a given address had a tree planted during construction of the house, and it may be that the Township has that software that she can use.
5. **Landscape plans from Hanover Engineering:** none
6. **Old/New Business:**

The Community Orchard project south of the township pool fence area was discussed. The possibility of putting the orchard in a different location because of a bocce ball court installation near the new pool was discussed. There would need to be a source of water for the orchard, and this will be a big factor in determining the new location. Gamini is looking forward to moving ahead with these plans, with a goal to do the plantings in October of 2024. He has spoken with Michael Harrington of the Monocacy Creek Watershed Association regarding a good source for native trees that could be used in the Community Orchard. The cardboard/compost mulching of the orchard area would need to be done in March or April as preparation, and there needs to be fencing to surround it, possibly as an Eagle Scout project. Cardboard collection could be a Township-wide effort, with people saving and contributing the cardboard they receive from online purchases and/or appliance and furniture boxes.

Hanover Elementary School has requested that we assist them with planting a new tree on site since they had to have at least one large tree removed recently. Discussion included the possibility of having the Arbor Day tree planting ceremony at the school in late April, and all present agreed that would be an excellent plan, with the rest of the Arbor Day activities being at the Community Center.

- A. **The next Shade Tree Advisory Board meeting:** There will be no December meeting unless needed for review of landscape plans. The next scheduled meeting will be on

Monday, January **22**, 2024 at 5:30 pm in the Township meeting room. This January date is a new date instead of January 29 to allow for all members to attend without schedule conflicts. Jane will contact the Township administration to get it approved and entered in the master calendar.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Jane Cook