

Hanover Township Shade Tree Advisory Board

The monthly meeting of the Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the Township office building. In attendance were Gamini Vedage, Jane Cook, Michele Kane, and Marianne Rivera.

1. The minutes of the November 2023 meeting were approved with no changes. There was no December meeting.
2. **Tree Ordinance revisions:** Marianne explained the work that she and Jane have been doing this month after meeting with Tracy Luisser on January 12, following Yvonne Kutz's retirement. Tracy is appreciative of the assistance we will be giving her regarding the Township Tree Ordinance. The changes being proposed will take effect in January of 2025, giving time for the residents to become aware of the changes. When the STAB recommendations as to the ordinance amendments are finalized, they will go before the Board of Supervisors to get approval. Discussion centered on enforcing the current ordinance, creating an Approved Arborist list, and a Suggested Landscape Nursery List for residents to use as a part of the permit process when they apply to remove an existing street tree or when they are required to replace a missing street tree. Procedures used by Bethlehem, Allentown and Easton are being considered to see where the Township can more effectively apply the Tree Ordinance regulations and required procedures.
3. **Park Tree Planting, Pruning, Maintenance Updates:** Erik Josephson will be planting 11 trees in the Township for the Spring planting. Jane and Marty Limpar will be marking those locations soon, so that Erik can plant the trees when the weather permits. Erik will also be doing structural pruning to the trees he planted during the past two years since during the trees' time of dormancy in the winter is the best time for that work to be done.
4. **Missing Street Trees Update:** Marianne and Michele verified in early January whether the Birchwood notices that expired in 2021 had been planted. Several of the trees have been planted, but many have not, and Tracy will be sending out reminder letters to those that are not yet in compliance.
5. **Landscape plans from Hanover Engineering:** none
6. **Community Orchard update:** Marianne and Jane met with Marty Limpar to finalize the location for the space that is south of the Township swimming pool and west of the existing volleyball sand court. This will give optimal water access, which is crucial for the plants' survival for the first two years after planting. Jane reported that she has met with Eli Stogsdill of Monocacy Farms on Bridle Path Road to get advice on planting procedures. He will meet with STAB members on Friday to visit the site. Eagle Scouts will build the enclosure fence to give deer protection, and individual trees will be protected prior to the fence's construction. The trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers used in the orchard will all be native species and will act as a demonstration space for Township residents to help create and maintain and to use as examples native plants they use in their own yards to improve native habitats throughout the Township.
7. **Arbor Day event:** it is set for Saturday, April 27, 2024. Jay Finnegan has completed the paperwork needed by the Arbor Day Foundation to get Hanover Township certified as a Tree City USA. We await their decision, but all the requirements have now been met, since we had the first Arbor Day event last April. 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. Marianne has lined up a musician who will add to the festivities at the Community Center on that day.

8. **New Business:** none

9. **The next Shade Tree Advisory Board meeting:** The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, February 26, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the Township meeting room.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Jane Cook