

Hanover Township Shade Tree Advisory Board

The monthly meeting of the Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the Township office building. In attendance were Jane Cook, Michele Kane, Marianne Rivera, and Gamini Vedage. David Wilson from Colliers Engineering and Design in Allentown also attended.

1. The **minutes** of the February 2024 meeting were approved with no changes. Jane thanked Michele for taking the minutes in her absence.
2. **Changing from board to a commission:** Marianne responded to Gamini's question about how this change might affect our workload that it will be a lot of upfront time and work to get things changed. But ultimately it will make everything much more efficient and will greatly reduce the time-consuming workload of the Zoning Officer (Tracy Luisser). We will not be enforcing any of the ordinance—that will still be Tracy's job. We will send out notices that are reviewed and signed by Tracy, and all follow-ups will be done by her office.
3. **Park Tree Planting and Pruning Update:** Jane reported that Erik Josephson planted the 11 park trees, taking advantage of a break in the bad winter weather that included about a foot of snow in one day. He planted 10 of the trees in Township Parks and the other one at Hanover Elementary School to replace a tree that had to be removed earlier. That tree will be the one featured at the Arbor Day celebration on April 27 (see below). Erik also pruned the trees for structure improvement that he had planted during the prior two years. This work needs to be done during the trees' dormant period, so the timing was perfect.
4. **Update on Missing Street Trees:** Marianne reported that in response to residents' receiving missing tree notifications, eight trees were planted this past weekend. Others have also been planted to meet the deadlines in the missing street notices, so this effort is really working well, with very few complaints. Most residents are complying with the Township ordinance that requires them to replace missing street trees. If residents choose to not comply, they can go before the Board of Supervisors, as stated in the current ordinance. Marianne will forward the documents to the Board of Supervisors that show that a street tree had been in place at the given address but now is missing so that the Board will have the pertinent information prior to the resident appearing before them.
5. **Landscape plans from Hanover Engineering:** Blair Bates had received plans from Hanover Engineering on Saturday, March 23 for the Hindu Society and the 4300 Airport Road proposal resubmittals. Analysis of those two submissions showed that the Hindu Society had rectified the issue in the Comment Letter we sent on January 8, 2024, regarding the need to change out the Green Ash trees in the proposal for another species, since Green Ash are not allowed to be planted in the Township. Black Gum trees, with the stipulation that they be podless, were substituted. David Wilson presented his firm's amendments to the 4300 Airport Road proposal, addressing the issues raised in our Comment Letter dated March 6, 2024. All issues were settled except for the question as to whether the large area of existing trees in the middle of the site, running east and west, constitute a woodland. David presented a memo from the Zoning Hearing Board in June of 2023 regarding this question. Jane will follow up with Brien Kocher at Hanover Engineering for clarification as to whether the area of trees does constitute a woodland, since that will trigger special conditions in the ordinance.

6. **Community Orchard update:** Gamini will take over this project and look into getting appropriate trees and enough volunteers to help with the future planting and maintenance. Dante of the Community Center is helping Marianne with getting an Eagle Scout to do the fencing part of the project. Marianne has already gotten commitments from four volunteers and hopes to get more at the Arbor Day event. The Preschool teacher at the Community Center wants to have her students involved in a small garden in this same space, so that coordination will be a part of the planning moving forward. Depending on how many volunteers step up to assist with this project, it will begin when the weather permits, allowing for time to get trees, to prepare the area for planting and to get the fencing installed.
7. **Arbor Day event: Saturday, April 27, 2024** A tree planting ceremony will be held at the Hanover Elementary School at 10:30 am. The rest of the Arbor Day activities will be at the Community Center from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Marianne will prepare elderberry tea for part of the representments, and she will order cupcakes as we did last year from BJs. Gamini will be at the Community Garden table to explain what it will be and to get volunteers to sign up to help. Michele will help with cupcakes and a water urn with small paper cups, provided by Jane. Jane will also do the seeds in potting soil cups for the kids to plant and take home. There will be a PTA table with activities for the kids. Marianne has coloring and other sheets from last year. Joshua Tree and Palmer Nursery will be there, and free tree seedlings will be distributed while the supply lasts. The nursery may bring along trees that will serve as samples for what residents can use to replace missing street trees, but they cannot be purchased that day since it's at the Community Center. But it will give people a good idea that the trees they need to use as street trees do not have to be large or expensive. Jane will order two sets of tree info brochures from International Society of Arborists at about \$30 per hundred, for a total cost of about \$60. These will be available for residents to take home at no cost. The decision as to this event being outside at the front of the Community Center or inside, as it was last year, will be made closer to the date.
8. **New Business:** none
9. **The next Shade Tree Advisory Board meeting:** The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, April 29, 2024, at **5:00 pm** in the Township meeting room. It was agreed that we will be meeting each month at 5:00 instead of 5:30, at least through the summer months. Jane will let the Township know of this change so that it can be reflected on the website and on future agenda postings.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Jane Cook