

## Hanover Township Shade Tree Advisory Board

The monthly meeting of the Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Monday, May 20, 2024, at 5:00 PM in the Township office building. In attendance were Blair Bates, Jane Cook, Gamini Vedage, Michele Kane, and Marianne Rivera.

1. The **minutes** of the April 2024 meeting were approved with no changes.
2. **Update on Missing Street Trees:** Marianne reported that the Township solicitor will be revising the letter that is sent to residents who have a missing street tree. Until that revision is completed, no new letters will be sent out from Zoning Officer Tracy Luisser.
3. **Landscape plans from Hanover Engineering:** Blair has received none this month. Tracy contacted Jane to verify that there would not be a problem for the developers of the site at Schoenersville Road and Macada Road to cut down four of the trees that are approved for removal for the Behavioral Hospital at that location. Approval was requested to remove these specific trees prior to the others since they are possibly habitats for bats. A new state ordinance requires that bat habitats not be disturbed during the time of the year when bats are nesting. Since the scheduled time for the trees to be removed for this development has not yet occurred, they asked permission to cut down the trees early but not do any earth disturbance that would require sedimentation controls be put in place. Jane confirmed with Hanover Engineering that this would be acceptable, and Tracy gave the approval.
4. **Community Orchard update:** Only two residents had signed up at the Arbor Day event as being interested in helping with a new Community Orchard project in the area to the south of the new pool area and west of the volleyball court, and no others have come forward to volunteer. The preschool teacher at the Community Center is very interested in having the garden space for the preschool students to learn from and work in. Three Township residents attended tonight's meeting to express concerns about the negative impact an orchard could have on local houses due to bugs and bird droppings from the fruit trees. Marianne reassured them that the fruits would be harvested prior to a bug infestation or dropped fruit from the trees. After discussion, this topic was tabled until a future meeting.
5. **Other Old/New Business:** Discussion as to the preferred starting time for the Shade Tree Advisory Board monthly meetings included 5:00 PM, 5:30 PM, and 6:00 PM. For the past few months, the times have been irregular, and it was agreed that we need to establish a more consistent meeting start time. Two of the five members preferred 6:00, one preferred either 5:30 or 6:00, and two others had no specific preference. Blair made the motion that the starting time be 6:00 PM, and Michele seconded that motion. This motion passed unanimously. Jane will notify Kimberly Lymanstall at the Township office that the time will be 6:00 PM for future meetings, so that she can make that change on the Township website and in other places where it might appear.
6. **The next Shade Tree Advisory Board meeting:** The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, June 24, 2024, at **6:00 PM** in the Township meeting room.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Jane Cook