

Shade Tree Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 30 August, 2026 6:00PM

Location: Township Meeting Room

Attendees: Board members including Mariann Rivera, Michele Kane, Jane Cook, Blair Bates, and Brenda Happ

1. Approval of Previous Minutes

- The July meeting minutes were **approved**.

2. Landscape Plan Update

- Blair reported that a development proposal had been received, but it did **not contain a landscape section or information concerning trees**.
- The proposal appeared to involve interior development of an already approved and improved lot, with no changes to the landscaping.

3. Street Tree Update

- There was no new update regarding the previously discussed damaged/destroyed street trees.
- No additional information or requests had been received.

4. Park Tree Update

- Arrangements were made for **two additional trees to be planted at Hanover Elementary School**.
- The trees will provide shade near the school's outdoor-room area, where previous tree-trunk seating area had deteriorated and was removed.
- The new trees will be somewhat larger and will match the existing trees in size and appearance.
- The Advisory Board discussed the impact of this planting on the possibility of using the school for a future Arbor Day planting.
- A total of **nine trees** are planned:
 - Two at Hanover Elementary School.
 - Seven in township parks.
- The park locations will be determined by Marty and the Shade Tree Board.
- The plan includes several shade trees and flowering trees.
- Erik Josephson has submitted the necessary paperwork/invoice, and planting is expected to take place in **October or November**

5. Budget

- The Advisory Board reviewed the previous year's budget of **\$8,500**.
- The Advisory Board intends to request **\$8,500 again** for the upcoming budget.
- A new requirement was discussed: **expenditures over \$500 require Township Manager approval**.
- This particularly affects pruning expenditures.
- Hazard-tree pruning is handled by Marty, while other park/tree maintenance pruning is performed separately by BetterScapes.

6. Mental Health/Behavioral Health Property

- The tree inspection at the mental health/behavioral health property has not yet been completed due to weather and scheduling. Location of Macada & Schoenersville Roads
- The inspection was added to the **agenda for the next meeting**.

7. Steuben Road Development

- The Commission discussed the proposed development on **Steuben Road**, described in the discussion as a distribution center.
- The property is a former quarry that has since become heavily wooded and provides habitat for wildlife.
- The proposed project includes a substantial landscape plan.
- The Commission had previously raised concerns about trees being planted very close together.
- The landscape designer explained that the intent is to create a **forested buffer rather than a traditional formal row of landscape trees**.
- The Board generally accepted that explanation because the existing site is already forested and the proposed planting is intended to recreate that character.
- The development remains on hold, and no new information was available regarding its status or potential tenant.

8. Next Meeting

- The next regular Shade Tree Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for **September 28**.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.