

# Long Hill Township Shade Tree Commission

## Meeting Minutes

### February 23, 2015

**Attendees:** Melanie Palmer Burdorf, Don Farnell, Phyllis Fast, Susan Jeans, Peter O'Neill, Guy Piserchia, Guy Roshto, Paul Tamburri (7:40), Mary DeLello (recorder)

**Absent:** David Welch

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM

**Swearing in of new members:** Guy Roshto sworn in

**Approval of November minutes:** Phyllis moved to accept the minutes from the November 17, 2014 meeting and Don seconded. All in favor of accepting minutes as written.

#### **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

1. **Treasurer's Report:** Peter reported same cash balance as last meeting \$10,050.14.
2. **Forestry Report:** Susan didn't get response from Joe Dunn regarding Forestry Report.
3. **PSE&G Tree Removal:** PSE&G cut trees in their right of way behind Magna Drive per 2006 Federal Government directive. Private attorney said we would have to file with county, didn't see it being successful but would buy some time. Trees were cut down a week and a half ago. Saved about 10 trees to be transplanted. Town will pay to transplant. Susan will ask David to look at trees and assess if we can transplant. Guy will contact David.
4. **Arbor Day Society:** Because of nature of winter, Susan will wait until March to put out pamphlets.
5. **Challenge Grant Program:** Town pays for installation and homeowner buys the tree, DPW installs usually between 15 – 20 trees. Trees would be in right of way or visible from right of way. About \$175/tree – balled and burlaped. Overall goal is to improve the visual of township. It's become very popular but the problem has been the homeowner feels if tree fails, they are entitled to replacement.

Thought given to contractor planting tree but would need to plant smaller tree who have higher failure rate. We still want to do program this spring with about 20 trees. Rose Valley nursery used the last couple seasons. If they install trees, it would be about \$125 for them to put a 2 ½ - 3" tree in the ground.

It's agreed to do Spring Challenge Grant for \$175 a tree; application cut-off should be April 1<sup>st</sup>, limit to 20 trees and limit the list of trees available to hard wood trees. DPW to install and trees should be installed in the right of way. Don will contact Rose Valley to know what's available. Once Don has list, it can be posted on website. Send notice to Cathy and it will be posted on township website. Don will write article, Guy R will get it on Long Hill TV. Don will locate trees, Susan will coordinate and speak to homeowners and Paul will do spreadsheet.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Application for development at Lounsberry Meadows** – application for installation of emergency gas generator – doesn't need waiver for tree removal because no trees involved. Need gas line run from street to behind the building. Don wrote letter because there are trees where the gas line is to be run.
2. **Application for tree removal at 1738 Long Hill Road Millington** – homeowners want to create a new driveway to Old Forge with two entrances. Don will look at the trees.
3. **Native trees and why birds need them** – Susan handed out article. As the shade tree commission, we should be educating people on the benefits of planting native trees.
4. **Back to Nature program offers free trees** - Phyllis talked to Anthony Splendoria, owner of Back to Nature. Anthony wants to work with the Commission to develop some program to give away trees. They are bucketed. Phyllis will speak with him about how many, what size, what species the trees are and what he hopes to get out of the program.
5. **Arbor Day** – could be different tree even transplanted cherries
6. **Kantor Memorial** – could do smaller ornamental tree

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM. Suzanne moved, Phyllis seconded, all in favor

► Next meeting: Monday, **March 16, 2015, 7:00 PM** at the **Library**.

Submitted by,  
Mary DeLello, Recorder