

# Long Hill Township Shade Tree Commission

## Minutes from March 28, 2022

**Attendees:** Ann Cade, Mary Ellen Grunther, Theresa Dill, Susan Jeans, Alec Meehan, Gordon Redgate, Paul Tamburri, and Mary DeLello (recorder).

**Absent:** Phyllis Fast, Al Gallo, Peter O'Neill, and Guy Piserchia

Meeting called to order at 7:07 by Susan.

Susan moved to accept the minutes from the February 28, 2022 meeting, Theresa seconded, all in favor.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. **Spring Challenge Grant** - two applications received already, recommend to homeowner to purchase and use waterbags
2. **Community Tree Recovery Program – Bare Root Program** – handing out saplings on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 9 – 12 at the DPW. Ann and Mary Ellen volunteered to bundle saplings in groups of five. Mary will get information to Susan regarding marketing and sign-in sheet. Mary will contact Program Coordinator to find out what species of trees are going to be offered.
3. **Arbor Day Planting** – Al Gallo recommended planting a tree at the Stirling Fire Department
4. **Valley Road Project** – on hold
5. **Tree Ordinance Recommendations** -. Guy reported on recommendations at the last LHT Committee meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. **Alec Meehan Presentation on Tree Ordinance Recommendations** – the issue with writing summons is that there are no consequences when get to court with Judge Bride. Lisa Chadwick Thompson, LHT prosecutor, has taken over for Jack Pidgeon. In 99% of the time after the citation has been cut, the homeowners will apologize and plant a tree in place of the tree that has been removed. Alec has issued a citation to tree companies for not being registered and company typically responds they registered last week which has not been the case. May be helpful to get Dennis Sando involved in the situation where Chase Bank removed a tree on neighbor's property. Ann suggested getting ordinance amended to also include citing the tree companies. It seems as if Environmental requirements fulfilled, tree conservation takes second place. Registration number of trees removed doesn't necessarily include ash trees removed, and trees lost when properties are clear-cut of all or most trees. Question if the registration is really capturing all trees lost in LHT which was its intended purpose
2. **Landmark Trees** – Susan and John Linson will take pictures during the week after Mother's Day when trees will be leafed out.
3. **Discussion with the Building and Grounds Coordinator of Long Hill Schools - Valley Road Project** – Ann visited Mark Messina who wants to have some tree work done at all three schools. Rich Tree Service is contracted to do the work. Ann will notify Mark and Susan will notify Rich Tree Service that they need complete the registration form with LHT before work is done.
4. **Girl Scout Participation in Tree Recovery Program** – Girl Scouts are excited to be helping with the Tree Recovery Program.

Gordon moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15, Paul seconded, all in favor.

►Next meeting: **Monday, April 25, 2022 at 7:00 PM, location to be determined.**

Submitted by Mary DeLello, Recorder