

Long Hill Township Shade Tree Commission

Minutes from February 27, 2023

Attendees: Ann Cade, Theresa Dill, Mary Ellen Grunther, Susan Jeans, Paul Tamburri, Dennis Sandow (guest) and Mary DeLello (recorder)

Absent: Phyllis Fast, Al Gallo, Scott Lavender, and Gordon Redgate

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Susan

Minutes: Susan moved to accept the minutes from the January 23, 2022 meeting, Mary Ellen seconded, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Landmark Trees** –White Oak on Carlton is old and Susan will see if the age can be determined.
2. **2023 Budget** – has been submitted to Township Committee. Township Committee will vote on budget and Valley Road project at the 3/15 meeting.
3. **Sapling Trees** – the STC will be distributing 400 saplings on April 29th. Susan will contact Girl Scouts to see if they can help.
4. **Spotted Lantern Flies** – the Common Catbird will eat the larva and flies.
5. **Solar Panels** – Theresa had sent around master plan and asked for comments. Dennis would like the master plan to be definitive so don't have to decide on an individual basis. STC should submit comments that would outline concerns on removing trees in favor of solar panels. Theresa will do her best to let STC know when meeting to discuss solar panels vs keeping trees is to be scheduled. STC needs to put together document including sources to distribute to those who are considering removing trees.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Landmark Tree Article** – Ann wrote an article that was submitted to the Echoes Sentinel and the Long Hill Leader. The Landmark Tree list includes twenty-eight different species of trees and some of the oldest trees in LHT.
2. **Challenge Grant Article** – twenty trees will be available. Amount per tree will be determined once Susan gets tree availability from Rose Valley. Applications due April 17th and the Challenge Grant program will run from April 3rd to April 21st. Mary will submit article to papers and LHT website.
3. **Canopy Tree Survey** – there are map attachments in the master plan that indicate tree canopy. Theresa will send map attachments to STC. Susan gave Paul an article that can help STC determine tree canopies. Susan will take as a suggestion from Dennis to earmark Meyersville for tree planting under the Tree City USA plan.
4. **Township Administration and Committees** – Dennis suggested to the Township Committee that administrative personnel and committees meet with the public at the Stirling Street Fair on April 23rd. He suggested that the STC be represented at the Street Fair also.
5. **Planning Board** – Dennis, as chairman, is requesting more reasonable and balanced position on trees in the commercial district. New ratio of trees for commercial building is requested but it is the zoning board's ordinance/land use ordinance. Theresa is asking for STC's input on ordinance changes. STC will discuss if there is a more reasonable ratio at next meeting

Susan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00, Paul seconded, all in favor.

- ▶ Next meeting: **Monday, March 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM, at the LHT First Aid Squad Room and via Zoom**

Submitted by Mary DeLello, Recorder