



## **STC Meeting Notes**

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

### **Participants**

Township Commissioners: Ben Sanchez and John Spiegelman and Larry Matteo, Director of Planning and Code Enforcement / From the STC: Kathy Weir, John Kennedy, Ed Hayes, Kathy Hemsley, Rita Stevens, Donna Rohner

### **Upcoming Events/Dates**

February 8- Monthly Shade Tree Commission Meeting

April 29- Arbor Day Event

### **FINANCIAL**

Kathy Weir gave a report on the STC account. Also reported is that there are \$282 dollars left from the TD Green Street Grant. It was decided these dollars will be used for the purchase of mulch for the Grove Park Trees planted recently.

### **PROGRAMS**

Rita announced that the C2P2 grant request has been granted - next steps include approval at upcoming Public Affairs Committee including confirmation of matching funds.

Rita also reported on efforts to define the tree protection needs related to the EHT reconstruction project. She is following up on this.

## Meeting Discussion Highlights

Rita began the meeting welcoming the commissioners and township staff who have joined us for discussion at this evening's meeting. After introductions by all, the agenda was reviewed, including several documents to help inform the evening's discussion. Prior to the discussion there was a brief report on finances and the C2P2 grant status. (see above)

Topics proposed for discussion were:

1. **Tree Planting Sites-** Identify and prioritize tree planting sites for 2017, and associated strategies for planting and caring for the trees
2. **Tree City USA / Arbor Day-** Explore and decide on scope for marking the 10th anniversary of Abington's status as a Tree City USA
3. **Community Engagement-** Examine how we can improve outreach and participation by partnering with Township Commissioners

The meeting included a robust discussion and sharing of ideas and information by all. The following is a brief summary of the discussion.

### **Tree Planting Sites-**

- It was noted that the spring bare root tree offering through PHS will provide about 40 trees to be planted.
- Discussed the Memorial Island site (located just south of the Old York Road/Susquehanna Road intersection) as an opportunity for a focused tree planting project and location of the 2017 Arbor Day event.
- Consider moving the war memorial that is awkwardly placed at Old York and Susquehanna to the Memorial Island location.
- The Memorial park has a great value in its 'town center' location and high visibility and should be considered for its historical and educational value
- The need for a conceptual plan will be needed - resources for this will be pursued

- Additional areas along Old York Road were discussed for improvement with additional trees planted or failing trees replaced.
- The furthest northern portion of Old York Road, and areas south of Memorial Island were agreed as areas in great need for tree planting and should be included in the Spring 2017 tree planting plans.
- The Fairway was identified as having many trees needing attention including possible replacement.
- It was noted that there has been a street inventory completed of these areas and that together with this info a walking inspection by the STC will be completed ASAP.
- John Spiegelman provided an update on the activity around the Old York/Susquehanna Roads intersection project. It was agreed that there will be many opportunities for tree planting throughout that project.

### **Tree City USA / Arbor Day-**

- Arbor Day will be celebrated on Saturday, April 29, 2017 and the War Memorial park along Old York Road and across from the Library will be the site for planting and celebrating.
- 2017 will mark 10 years for Abington Township as a Tree City community - plans are underway to mark the special occasion
- Rita will draft program details for this year's event

### **Community Engagement-**

- A brief discussion resulted with a very enthusiastic commitment by our Commissioners to reach out to their constituents as well as the other commissioners to recruit help and get residents involved with these upcoming tree activities and efforts.
- It was agreed that there it is important that residents in the area of tree plantings need to be involved in the upkeep of the trees and in particular on-going watering. The Memorial Island project will certainly need attention with watering.
- It was suggested that we reach out to the Penn State community considering the significant presence now with the new Penn state student dormitory building.

**Meetings notes: John Kennedy**