



STC Meeting Notes | *Wednesday, February 13, 2019*

Participants:

In attendance: Rita Stevens, Joe Ascenzi, Carl Andresen, Ed Hayes, John Kennedy, Abington Township: Andy Oles. Not present: Colin Watson

Calendar

- Next Shade Tree Commission Meeting, Wednesday, March 13, 2019

FINANCIAL

1. Update- balances
 - a. \$7500 total including the \$6,000 in township budgeted funds for 2019
2. Pending reimbursement- \$12,000 Tree Vitalize Forestry Management Grant TV2018/CFM-05 tP
3. Pending grant- TV Watershed 2019- \$3244 grant with \$4766 match for project total of \$8010
 - a. adjustments to watershed grant described by Rita
4. **New:** Pending memorial donation- memorial bench plus \$1000 budget for plantings at Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary
 - a. *township resident offering a bench and funds for trees and plant materials at the AWS site*
5. **New:** Potential for funds to support tree giveaway at Abington Manor (similar to CSX 2017 event)
 - a. initial efforts underway for additional planting in the Abington Manor area

ADVISORY

1. **New:** Review and comment on Land Development Application LD-19-01: Proposed existing building revisions and parking lot at the Southeast Corner of Highland and Kenmore Ave
 - a. Rita laid out and described the process for gathering feedback from the SRC and providing this to township officials. The commission reviewed the landscape plans including suggested plant list.
 - b. Initial feedback that there could be more large canopy trees included. Shade tree commissioner Carl will complete a site visit and report back via email. Meeting on this project early march.
2. **Ongoing:** Street Tree master plan for TC street trees- continue to frame what's needed to develop a recommendation; Supporting tool- PHS Urban Tree Cloud for tree inventory <https://pg-cloud.com/phs/>; immediate recommendations for corner of Keswick and Mt Carmel , and for Keswick Village holiday tree
 - a. Oriental or Serbian spruce recommended for Keswick Village
 - b. Street tree plan discussed for Keswick area-history of no maintenance and poor cutting regiment. Is this an opportunity to research and create a best practice?
3. Land Development Application for new Medical Office at 1137-51 Old York Road – continue to watch

PROJECTS

1. Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary- C2P2 project - Update- **new proposed start** of April 2019; **new item:** Discuss proposed memorial project
 - a. Think Green suggesting an April start date. General discussion about needs to get started, but all agreed that the project needs to start and proceed when TG believes is best. The end of 2020 is grant deadline.
2. Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary- EHT reconstruction project- Update- field visit and project schedule

- a. update - all moving along well. Colin to follow up this week.

- 3. Memorial Island- Update
 - a. clearing and demo underway, fundraising and approvals happening, construction to begin this spring,

- 4. ASD request- tree-planting program for native shade trees on the campus of Abington Junior High School, in partnership with the Science Department- Update
 - a.

- 5. Landscape ordinance- Update- Grant closeout and next steps
 - a. Grant process closed out and complete, forwarded to township officials for further action.

- 6. **New item:** Arbor Day- rough out plans and procurement for April 27, 2019
 - a. North Hills Park Selected for the 2019 Arbor Day
 - b. Joe and Andy to review site

- 7. **New item:** Abington Manor tree giveaway- fall 2019?
 - a. Further Activity pending until conformation of funding

- 8. **Priorities for major projects for full year 2019-** Reviewed and refined the list

STC ADMINISTRATIVE

- 1. 2019 annual report- Update- draft ready for review in March

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. Tree Vitalize Watersheds application for 2019- awaiting funder response (March 2019)- **discuss reduced budget** for invasive clearing and planting stock
 - a. Waiting to hear the announcement of grant decisions
- 2. Other grants-
 - a. Recently learned of leadership and sustainability grant opportunity – STC will look into this
 - b. MONTCO grant opportunities and Treevitalize grants will also be investigated