



MEETING NOTES

February 10, 2016

Participants

Joe Ascenzi, Tim Gilmour, John Kennedy, Ed Smeal, Rita Stevens, Kathy Weir

Upcoming Events/Dates

1. STC Meeting- Wednesday, March 9, 7:30 to 9:00 PM, Grove House
2. PHS Bare Root Tree Delivery- Wednesday, April 20
3. Abington Township Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Planting- Saturday, April 23
Arbor Day and tree planting at Ardsley Community Center + possible planting at Crestmont Park
4. Monthly Tree Tending Mornings: February 13, March 12, April 14 (Saturdays) 9am - 1 pm
5. May 5, 12, 19- Tree Tenders Training at Foulkeways

Discussion Highlights

- 1) Baederwood Basin-update
 - a) Per Commissioner Spiegelman, the three proposed Baederwood basins are to be removed from the Cheltenham plan. Abington Township is to propose a partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers to perform a feasibility study of the remaining flooding issues in Abington Township. The STC endorses this approach and anticipates participating in this process.
 - b) Public comment period for the original 9-basin Cheltenham plan was extended to Monday February 22. Individuals are encouraged to use this period to express views on the proposed Abington-focused remediation feasibility plan. Rita will comment on behalf of the STC, indicating our support of the Abington-focused study.
- 2) Edgehill Tyson Project- update and new request:
 - a) Stormwater conveyance path and elements of the receiving stream have been included in the request for environmental permit. Anticipate a survey to be completed in 2.5 month's time, after which detailed design can commence.. Design decision has been made for deeper, smaller footprint for dry detention basin.
 - b) New request to the STC came from Pennoni Engineers re: the Edgehill Tyson project. Conditions of some of the Tyson ave properties that have a steep slope condition- homeowners may call for possible change of grade which may impact an amount of wooded area. The STC could make comment after members of the township staff provide guidance.

- 3) Trinity Lutheran- watch
 - a) No new report
- 4) Jess AM- update
 - a) No new report
- 5) Stormwater Ordinance- approved January 2016
 - a) This ~140 page document coordinates the townships oversight and management of all three watersheds that fall within Abington township.
- 6) Thanks to Harrison Carney to have completed on January 31st the seventh BSA Eagle Scout project at Grove Park since the STC began stewardship in April 2012 . Installation of solar powered LED lights will greatly improve the facilities here. Thank you! Previous Eagle projects provided compost bins, cinderblock wall painting, rain garden, riparian restoration, border plantings, and educational kiosks. In addition, a GSA Silver project provided a native butterfly garden.
- 7) Our mini-grant for application for Urban Birds was not approved for this cycle. We were encouraged to reapply in the future.
- 8) Finance update: No update from January. Began new year with \$4000 MTRP, \$1000 STC expense, \$183 Cash, \$50 new donation. No new expenses; committed \$500 for purchase of PHS bare root trees for planting at Ardsley CC in April. Kathy to develop a spreadsheet for tracking finances.
- 9) Tim updated the committee on the results of the Ardsley neighborhood meeting. Ardsley Family Day which is a very active community group involved in many efforts throughout the Ardsley community and has been receptive to many of the STC efforts. Tim will be attending this meeting ahead of the Arbor Day event which will focus on Ardsley.
- 10) Ed gave an update on the Crestmont Park efforts and his experience with this committee. Ed feels that the response from this group was positive and that they were excited to hear about the interest from others to come in and help their community. Dollars currently available from the MTRP grant could be used for this project. Agreed to walk the park and determine what tree species would be best. Joe will inform the group on availability of species soon.
- 11) Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary- C2P2 grant proposal- update and plans
 - a) Rita reviewed two documents related to the C2P2 - outline describing the project and a resource sheet.
 - b) Joe, Tim, Rita and Charlie STC members together with township, DCNR and others walked the Ardsley wildlife sanctuary and came up with a list of priorities to inform the approach to develop this area.
 - c) Goal to have this submitted by April 15th - need to get in front of the township commissioners by March 3rd with the basics and a not to exceed budget.
 - d) Discussed how to proceed, resources needed, persons to assist with professional services, etc.
 - e) Need to visit the site again to fine tune the ideas and further develop for the submission.

- f) Rita will be spending time drafting further details and will be looking for feedback from the committee.
- 12) February tree tending plans - This Saturday Feb 13th light activity planned for the Grove Park property will be limited due to expected frigid temps.