



## STC Meeting Notes

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

### Participants

Township Commissioners: Ben Sanchez and John Spiegelman, Presenting on the War Memorial design: David Corrigan, From the STC: Kathy Weir, John Kennedy, Ed Hayes, Kathy Hemsley, Rita Stevens, Donna Rohner, Tim Gilmour, Joe Ascenzi, Charlie Sobeleski

### Upcoming Events/Dates

March 8- Monthly Shade Tree Commission Meeting

March 13 First public hearing on the proposed Zoning Ordinance

April 29- Arbor Day Event

### Opening, News, & Announcements

Rita Opened the meeting announcing about the - NEPA Scoping Study for the Sandy Run Creek - Invitation to participate; input relevant information by March 6

#### **Introduced those attending this evening**

**Bartlett's Tree Care Update** at the **Philadelphia Flower Show**- Thursday, March 16, 2017, 8:45 am to 3:00 pm- STC members offered a complimentary pass- give Rita your address, email and telephone and she will register you

### FINANCIAL

Kathy Weir presented a report on the STC account through January 2017

## PROGRAMS

### **2017 Arbor Day event- to be held at Memorial Park**

To recap: 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.

John and Kathy reported that they had walked the war memorial garden island just south of Susquehanna road on Rte 611 as well as Rte 611 just south of this area. Using the PHS bare root tree offering for this season they made a recommendation of tree selection for the war Memorial Island and for street tree planting along route 611 south of the memorial. Tree selection includes crab apples, swamp white oak and the elm- *Ulmus x 'Accolade'*

Joe suggested the Elm offered through the PHS bare root offering was not the optimum choice for streets and that there were other cultivars 'Jefferson' or 'Valley Forge' that would be better for street tree placement. 'Accolade' would be okay for the park placement. The tree order has been placed and Kathy will follow up on the possible availability of an alternate elm for the street tree placement.

Originally considered part of this year's Arbor Day project, it was further suggested that the Fairway tree needs amounted to a project unto itself.

PR and volunteer recruitment for Arbor Day is underway.

### **Presentation: The World War II Memorial on Rte 611**

David Corrigan presented a well developed design for a complete renovation of the current World War II memorial located about center of this space. David's presentation of his redesign focused on the repositioning of the large WWII memorial so that it stands more prominently in this location and makes room for the addition of other war memorials as appropriate. Further he presented ideas for hardscape, seating and placement of plant materials.

Some comments about the design:

- A discussion of hardscaping materials resulted in using PA bluestone -this would give the memorial a more formal and very long lasting durable material
- There will need to be electric for lighting of the space and water supply for the watering of plant material
- There should be an effort to retain the American Holly, *Ilex opaca*.

- There is a need to create a plant list for trees, shrubs and perennials for the recreated memorial space. Kathy, John and Tim will work on this list.

The suggestion was made to raise funds for this project and all agreed this was a great idea. Commissioners Spiegelman and Sanchez felt this project would be well received by residents and businesses who may want to donate.

The design presented was well received by all and David was thanked for all of his work on this.

### **Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary**

- a. Update on C2P2 project, including selection of design professional and public involvement
- b. No update for the Tyson/Edgehill reconstruction project

Rita announced that the C2P2 grant request has been granted - next steps include approval at upcoming Public Affairs Committee including confirmation of matching funds; and identifying a consulting designer with professional qualifications required by the state. Rita, Ed and Kathy will follow Township procedures for gathering estimates and present to the STC in March for decision.

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**

### **3.5. New business**

- a. Proposal to purchase tree pruning equipment for use by STC certified arborist- approved budget amount of \$600-\$700
- b. Robert Barker's Eagle Project- to be held Saturday February 11 at Grove Park; start is 7 am
- c. Troop 48 request for a service project- Grove Park mulching and water bag replacements? Timing?- priority is Grove Park tree tending and water bag placement, as late in the season as possible, so that weeding can be included. Rita will follow up to schedule.
- d. Request for clarification of right of way and potential for tree planting on Old Ford Road (resident attended) - STC will provide recommended list of trees that was developed to support the new zoning ordinance, and request opportunity to review and comment on planting plan to be submitted to the Township prior to further tree clearing.

**Meetings notes: John Kennedy**