

**Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, April 12, 2017**

Members Present: Heather Lyle, Gib Miller, Kirsten Raether, Kurt Summersgill, Terry Ward
The meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

Agenda:

Kirsten Raether has been appointed by Swissvale Council to the Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee. Welcome Kirsten!

Action for the May 20th Arbor Day Event

The formal proclamation as a Tree City will be on May 20th at noon at Memorial Field as part of Swissvale Clean up Day.

Gib brought the Tree City USA supply package to the meeting. This included:

- two 24" X 30" aluminum signs
- a 4 ft X 6 ft nylon flag
- a 12" X 16" wooden plaque
- a baseball cap and a pin

It will be up to Council to decide where the signs, flag, and plaque will be displayed.

In preparation for the Tree City event, Terry reached out to Tree Pittsburgh, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Sestilli Nursery (Oakland), Garden Dreams Urban Farm and Nursery (Wilkinsburg), and Chapon's Greenhouse (Streets Run Road) for donations or discounts for seedlings to distribute. So far Tree Pittsburgh was the only response and, unfortunately, they are out of seedlings. Kurt will be getting Terry another contact from whom he received some free trees to plant in Frick Park. Heather suggested that if we cannot get seedlings, we distribute seed packs instead. This suggestion was well received.

Terry talked to several boy scouts from the Forest Hills and Edgewood Boy Scout troops about being involved in the Arbor Day event. They were enthusiastic and will be talking to their troops about being involved in some way on May 20th.

Gib led a discussion on how to highlight Swissvale being a Tree City USA. *What are the goals for being a tree city? What is required to be a tree city? To be a tree city you must...* Committee members will look through the ideas from the Arbor Day Foundation and consider what information to disseminate and how.

Things that are set for May 20th:

- The mayor will read the official proclamation.
- Clyde Wilhelm will invite Jay Costa to attend.
- Gib has extended an invitation to Celine Colbert. She will be present.
- SSTAC will have a table with information about SSTAC
 - NMRWA information will be available
 - Borough website and SSTAC link will be displayed

Things to work on:

- Find an existing proclamation to be read.
- Ask the borough about mulch. Gib suggested we mulch the young trees recently planted on Michigan as our Arbor Day event.

- Look through the ideas from the Arbor Day Foundation and consider what information to disseminate and how, as well as ideas for the event project.
- Contact Jared about having the Forest Master Plan survey available
- Get NMRWA upcoming events to have available
- Consider how we want to display the Borough website and SSTAC link.
- Find seedlings or seed packets.
- Contact Swissvale Borough about where to put the signs.

This discussion will be finalized at the May meeting.

Other Business:

Heather met with Mr. Humberson about his two trees. Based on the advice of the SSTAC, an arborist will look at the trees at the time he looks at the other trees that have been recommended.

Heather looked at and measured trees on the Swissvale Slopes. This area could be our next focus for a tree grant.

Gib informed the committee that money is available for NMWRA to have a professional tree survey completed for Swissvale, Wilkinsburg, and Edgewood.

The committee is agreeable to becoming involved in the future creation of rain gardens in our community as an Arbor Day event to maintain our Tree City status.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 10th at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Terry Ward