

**Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes, August 7, 2017**

Members Present: Gib Miller, Heather Lyle

Others Present: Jared Manzo, NMRWA Urban Forestry Manager

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

**Old Business:**

Gib reminded the committee that we should hear grant results from Tree Vitalize in September. The committee applied for a grant to plant additional trees, although money available is limited this year. Jared noted that Tree Vitalize is still trying to acquire PA state money for tree planting.

Jared updated us on the NMRWA Forest Master Plan tree survey. The tree inventory is complete and Jared is working with the data. Jared continues with outreach activities in watershed communities, including surveying residents and stakeholders. He is at the Swissvale Farmer's Market to hand out surveys, among other outreach efforts, including contacting larger area churches.

**New Business:**

Jared stated that Edgewood has a new four member Tree Committee.

Jared handed out a map of Swissvale's tree canopy, with statistics from the recent tree inventory, plus a list of dead trees in the borough. To summarize: Swissvale has 669 right-of-way street trees (not counting park trees), and the overall tree canopy is down about 3 per cent. In choosing new trees to plant, no one species should exceed 10 per cent of the total canopy; for example, London plane trees currently make up 21 per cent of the total, so should not continue to be planted. There are also too many pin oaks in Swissvale. Tree diversity is a goal. During the winter, Jared will update the Open Tree Map data, sharing tree data among the boroughs.

**NMRWA is hosting a tree care/mulching event on Thursday, September 7.** It will cover the new trees planted in Swissvale during Fall 2016. Volunteers are needed to pull weeds and add mulch.

Jared is working with local Rotary clubs re: the Rotary International challenge to clubs to plant a tree for each member. Gib will help to promote this idea at the next SEDCO meeting.

Jared stated that a contractor has analyzed the Nine Mile Run sewer shed to determine where new trees should be planted to help with water run-off.

Related to run-off problems, Heather mentioned the proposed Four Mile Run project that will help to address sewer shed and flooding issues, using parts of Schenley Park, including the lake there. Part of that plan is plant more trees in the park to help absorb water.

**Action Items:**

Committee members will continue surveying trees in landscaped public/park areas in the borough.

Volunteer Sept. 7 with NMRWA.

The meeting ended at 7:40 p.m.; the next meeting is September 13.

Minutes submitted by Heather Lyle