



Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee

December 8, 2017 meeting minutes

Members Present: Heather Lyle, Gib Miller, Kurt Summersgill, Terry Ward

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

*One of our goals for 2018 is for our committee to be recognized as an organization to which one would turn for advice on where to put trees and what kinds of trees to plant.

Tree City USA application-

Gib updated the application so as to maintain our Tree City USA status. Events from last year and pictures of those events were included and the application has been sent. FYI: The amount per capita has increased to be more than double what is expected. Tim Ward will check with the borough on the location of the Tree City signs.

Fundraising-

We will be talking to SEDCO in more depth about partnering on various activities. SEDCO is a 501c3 so it would be best financially for us to run our finances through them rather than the borough.

We briefly discussed the need for fundraising and pursuing the idea of Swissvale residents who request a street tree to pay a portion of the cost. The SSTAC would fundraise to pay the balance. This would help to insure that homeowner would take care of the tree after planting. This will need to be added to the tree request form.

Publicity for our events needs to expand beyond social media. Banners, yard signs, upkeep of the website were discussed as possible areas to increase awareness. The increase in frequency for the Swissvale newsletter will also be advantageous for publicity.

Plans for mulching event-

The committee will pick a date for the next mulching event planned to take place on Washington Avenue in the business district. Dates to be considered include April 22 Earth Day or April 27th Arbor Day. The committee will invite the business community, through the Rotary, to be part of this mulching event.

Committee roles and responsibilities-

Although we did not have the list below, we discussed some of the various roles and responsibilities for our committee. We will discuss the remainder at our meeting in January.

- preparing grant applications- _____
- organizing tree requests and coordinating types of trees- Kurt
- writing committee meeting minutes- Terry/Heather
- writing articles, etc for newsletters et al- Terry/Heather

- coordinating what is on the SSTAC site on the borough website-Terry/Heather
- coordinating with NMRWA for posting Swissvale info on their website- _____
- general coordination with NMRWA, DCNR and other local tree organizations-Gib
- establish contact protocol with local tree tenders-Gib
- coordinating with the DPW and borough in general-Gib
- posting SSTAC info on social media (Facebook, NextDoor, , etc)Terry/Heather
- fund raising coordination-Heather
- treasurer- *we need to decided what we will need here*

Other topics:

Gib was in touch with the Edgewood Tree Committee to discuss ~~joining~~ joining forces+with them. There will be another Master Forest meeting in January to discuss how to get more public involvement.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45

The next meeting is January 10th at 7:00 p.m.