



Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee

October 11, 2017 meeting minutes

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

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

Plans for mulching event-

Plans were made to have a fall mulching event for Saturday, November 11th. However, since NMRWA had already scheduled a tree planting in Swisshelm Park for that day, the date has been changed to November 4th. Gib will get in touch with both NMRWA and the Borough of Swissvale for help in providing tools, removal of excess sod and weeds from cleaning out the tree pits, and 2-3 yards of mulch.

The following will be used to advertise the event:

The Swissvale Street Tree Advisory Committee is hosting a tree care and mulching event on November 4, 2017. About a dozen street trees which were planted by Nine Mile Run Watershed Association and TreeVitalize in 2015 are in desperate need of some tree pit care and mulching. Please join us from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at Dickson School on Schoyer Avenue to help keep these recent additions to the watershed's urban forest healthy and thriving.

Jared will be asked to put the event on the NMRWA webpage and the information will be sent to Sarah for the Swissvale Webpage. It will also be posted on various social media sites by Terry.

Tree City USA application-

We will be updating last year's application so as to maintain our Tree City USA status.

Pictures from our Arbor Day event held at Memorial Field on Clean Up Day will be added to the application. Heather will look at the latest census to find the population and median income in Swissvale, also needed for the application.

Events in which we have participated this year will also need to be added. Tree Mulching and planting events will be listed. Jared should be able to get us the information needed such as the number of people involved in each event.

Fund raising

Although disappointed that we will not be receiving trees from Tree Vitalize for a spring planting, the committee will be seeking other ways to increase the urban canopy in Swissvale.

We will need to contact the Borough of Swissvale to learn if we are able to fund raise to buy trees. The committee will be investigating types of trees that would be best planted in Swissvale as well as cost. It was suggested that local nurseries as well as Tree Pittsburgh should be contacted.

One suggestion was to have the Swissvale residents who request a street tree pay a portion of the cost. The SSTAC would fund raise to pay the balance. This would help to insure that homeowner would take care of the tree after planting. This would need to be added to the tree request form.

One question raised was about fund raising money. It was suggested that perhaps we could partner with SEDCO, a 501c3. This will have to be investigated.

In addition, if we are not receiving trees from Tree Vitalize, and the homeowner was paying for part of the tree, could we plant trees in front yards? This would need to be looked into with the Borough of Swissvale.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00.
The next meeting is November 8th at 7:00 p.m.