



Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee

January 9, 2019 meeting minutes

Members Present: Gib Miller, Kirsten Raether, Kurt Summersgill

Others: Jan Raether, NMRWA

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

*A continuing goal for 2019 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. Improved coordination with other local communities and tree-centric organizations is also a 2019 objective.

- **Filling Heather's spot on the committee**

With Heather stepping down from committee membership, we have an opening to fill. Terry confirmed that Swissvale Borough is planning to advertise in the next newsletter for this position, as well as open slots in other groups.

- **Things to do for the trees we planted in November at Park and Monongahela**

Jan has put temporary protective guards around the small trees which we planted at Park and Monongahela as winter protection. We will re-evaluate the guards in the spring to ensure that they will be adequate to protect the trees from lawn maintenance damage in the future.

- **Status of the Spring 2019 TreeVitalize application**

Brian Crooks from Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will arrange for a site visit to ensure that all the recommended locations meet their criteria for being able to accept a larger balled and burlap tree. Brian asked that we re-confirm that all of the tree requests that we submitted are still valid, especially since some are a few years old. Kurt plans to email all of the tree requesters to confirm that they would still like a tree at their residence. Gib will touch base with Brian to let him know what we are doing.

- **The latest Tree City USA application and how to proceed with getting more signs**

The application was submitted in December and was signed off by Celine Colbert at the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Gib emailed Greg Bachy about potentially procuring more Tree City USA signs for other borough locations. Gib will follow up with Greg on this.

- **Plans for Spring 2019 events**

Gib, Terry and Kurt all have trees from the Arbor Day Foundation that were planted last year as seedlings. At least some of these should be big enough to plant on their own now. A planting event at Park and Monongahela in the spring could be planned as an Arbor Day observance. Arbor Day 2019 is April 26. A spring tree care event (e.g., mulching) could be at one of a few different locations (e.g., Washington and Noble, near Dickson School, Harrison and vicinity). We'll have further discussion at the February meeting.

- **What's left of the submitted tree requests ?**

Once we determine the status of the Spring 2019 TreeVitalize application, we will re-evaluate all of the remaining requests that haven't been fulfilled and gage both continued interest and other ways to fulfill them (e.g., smaller trees).

- **Items for the next Swissvale newsletter**

For the next newsletter, Terry recommended highlighting the organizations from where we get help-Tree Pittsburgh (training, etc.), Tree Vitalize, DCNR, and especially NMRWA. She also recommended that we continue to refer people to apply for trees. Those sound like good topics.

- **Other things**

Gib identified a program called "Plant Five for Life", the objective of which is to plant five trees for every child born in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. The committee will look into this and see if it might be a good initiative for Swissvale.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30

The next meeting is February 13th at 7:00 p.m.