



Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee
April 10, 2019 meeting minutes

Members Present: Gib Miller, Kirsten Raether, Kurt Summersgill, Terry Ward
NMRWA liaison: Jan Raether
Visitor: Mike Takacs

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

*One of our goals 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 update: We have been awarded a third year as a Tree City USA. Gib has spoken to Greg Bachy about putting a Tree City USA sign at each of the entrances to Swissvale. Greg will have signs made for this purpose.

TreeVitalize Application update: Swissvale has been approved for five trees for a fall planting. More information is needed from Jeff Bergman at TreeVitalize before contacting other potential sites.

April 13th Tree Pruning Event: Update: Trees were pruned along Oak Grove, Harrison, and Nevada Streets. Jan Raether instructed the group about the proper methods for pruning prior to the committee, along with two volunteers, taking care of needy trees. This pruning event was the official Swissvale Arbor Day Event. The Arbor Day Proclamation was read by Swissvale Mayor, Deneen Swartzwelder.

Church and Braddock Parklet Update: The Rotary and other private citizens responsible for development of the parklet are proceeding with plans. Lighting, a cement path, benches, and flowerbeds will be put in this spring. A bike station will also be part of the parklet.

Additional areas to add trees: The parklet on Monongahela Avenue and Park Place was suggested as a location for additional trees. In the meantime, tubing will be put around the small trees to protect them from lawn mowers. The Swissvale library was mentioned as another location for trees. The SSTAC plans to do a small tree planting in June, if possible.

Other business:

NMRWA-

Citizens Tree Project- A number of Swissvale residents took advantage of this program and received trees. Nine Mile Run is planning another Citizens Tree Project in the future.

Tree Events for the education of Swissvale residents- The committee is interested in engaging the residents of Swissvale in tree events. Some possible topics for workshops included: A tree identification walk, learning about invasive plants, and picking the right trees. A question will be put into the next newsletter asking for public opinion: What kind of tree workshop would interest you?

For the next meeting:

- Think about plans and possible dates for a tree mulching or small tree planting in June.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35.

Minutes prepared by Terry Ward