



Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee

September 11, 2019 meeting minutes

Members Present: Gib Miller, Kurt Summersgill, Mike Takacs, Terry Ward

Other Attendees: Jan Raether, Julie Mountain

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Update on TreeVitalize Planting Application for Fall

Brian Crooks from Tree Vitalize performed a site visit to assess the tree requests submitted by the SSTAC as part of our fall 2019 tree planting application and the requests have been approved. Five sites were approved previously and six trees at Les Getz Memorial Field and 10 trees for Park Avenue were recently approved. . With approval for 20-21 trees, advertising for volunteers to help is a must. As soon as the SSTAC is given the actual list of sites and the date for the planting, the need for volunteers will be posted on the NMRWA website, the Swissvale Borough website, as well as on Facebook sites. In the past, volunteers from local universities have contributed their time for service hours. They will be contacted when specific information is available.

Tree pit cleanup on Edgewood Avenue Recap

Members of the SSTAC and family members weeded the tree pits along the bus way on Edgewood Avenue. In addition to losing their leaves, the trees exhibit signs of sun scald. Jan took pictures of the trees and sent them to TreeVitalize for diagnosis and recommendations but has not heard back from them as of yet. He will continue to follow up with other experts.

In the spring, we will find out if this is because of the large amount of rain we have had in Pittsburgh this year.

Coordination with Other Tree Groups

Gib has been trying to get in touch with the Edgewood Tree Committee so we can collaborate on an event in Regent Square. He has not had any luck as of yet. Jan will get in touch with the chairperson to see if this is possible.

Future Focus and Ideas

The SSTAC has set up a Gmail account Swissvale.Tree.Committee@gmail.com for Swissvale residents to contact the committee if they want a tree, are concerned about a particular

tree, or need a tree replaced. This email address will be posted in the newsletter and social media sites for public dissemination.

The SSTAC is working to get the word out to Swissvale residents. Focus includes:

Tree Planting

Tree Care

Education about trees

Involvement with trees

This information will be included in an article in the next Swissvale newsletter.

The committee also wants to start a section on tree stories. People would send a picture and include a story about their favorite tree.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

Minutes prepared by Terry Ward