



Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee

January 8, 2020 meeting minutes

Members present: Gib Miller, Kurt Summerhill, Terry Ward, Jan Raether

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

- **Minutes from December 11, 2019 meeting**

The minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

- **Update of Open Tree Map and Swissvale Tree Inventory**

Greg Bachy forwarded to Gib a list of all tree work that has been done in Swissvale this year. Gib has checked on these specific trees and updated Open Tree Map and The Swissvale Tree Inventory. Any trees that were removed from Open Tree Map have also been removed from the Swissvale Inventory. Empty sites are visible on the map and are purple. There are currently 655 street trees in the Borough of Swissvale.

Greg has been given an updated list of trees that are in poor condition.

- **Tree tags**

Julia Ann will create a template for the tree tags to be put on recently planted trees. The tags will contain the tree name, Latin name, and planting date. Included on the tag will be the names of the groups responsible for planting the trees- Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and Nine Mile Run Watershed Association. The tags will be reviewed and discussed at the January SSTAC meeting.

- **Discuss remaining open tree requests.**

The committee reviewed all remaining open tree requests. Possible sites for street trees, some of which would be suitable for smaller trees were identified from Kurt's list. Gib will look at the sites that were identified to see if they are indeed suitable. This may be an opportunity for bare root trees. It was discussed that while they are cheaper to purchase, they must often be purchased in larger quantities. Jan knows of a nursery in New York but is not aware of a local nursery. Tree Pittsburgh has trees in five gallon containers. Gib will email Celine for more information.

It was decided that the home owner should be the one to make the PA1 calls to locate utilities before a planting. This gives the homeowner more ownership to the tree.

Lilmont was discussed as an ideal location for the Citizen Tree Project. Jan will drop off pamphlets to homeowners.

- **Date and focus for the first SSTAC event in the spring**

March 28th was suggested as the first TREE CARE EVENT sponsored by the SSTAC. This can be a pruning event for the trees on the corner of Church and Braddock and the cherry trees on Washington Avenue.

Gib has been in touch with the Edgewood Tree Committee. At this time 8 or 9 Horse Chestnuts were taken out in Regent Square. We would like to collaborate with them to replace these trees.

- **Ideas for a public education event in 2020 (e.g., tree walk, public meeting)**

The committee is committed to educating the public and informing them of the importance of trees. For this year's Arbor Day Event, the committee is planning a Scavenger Hunt in Memorial Park. Specific plans still need to be made and will be worked on by the committee. Advertising through social media sites and at neighborhood schools was discussed.

- **Other business**

The website is up and looks fantastic. Jan is putting a link to the new website on the NMRWA website.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30.