



Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee
July 8, 2020 meeting minutes

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

Other Attendees: Jan Raether- NMRWA

The meeting started at 7:00 PM and was held via Zoom.

Preparations for the July 18 tree care event on the Edgewood Ave/Busway trees:

Gib spoke to Greg Bachy about providing mulch and some equipment for this tree care event. Due to the extreme heat, the committee will begin work at 9:00 a.m. Empty buckets will be needed for any extra mulch that is not used. Weeds are to be left for pick up by the Swissvale DPW. The SSTAC will provide have water available.

Tree tag recap and next phase:

The tree tags are holding up well and the committee is ready to proceed with tagging additional trees.

New trees from the June 6th planting:

Terry reported that the new trees planted on June 6th are thriving. The home owners appear to be taking good care of them.

Problem street tree at 1434 LaClair Ave:

This tree was brought to the attention of the committee by a neighbor. The tree has been looked at by both the committee and the DPW. The tree is not sickly or dead and poses no immediate danger. It is leaning across the sidewalk and does have many extra leaders that need to be removed. As per the Swissvale Tree Ordinance, at this time, the tree is the homeowner's responsibility. If and when it does become a serious problem, the Swissvale Borough will take care of it. Gib will email the concerned Swissvale citizen with ordinance information.

Other items of importance:

Jan will put tree bags on trees in need when he goes out with the water buffalo.

Greg Bachy discussed the following with Gib:

- The DPW will support all tree care events
- There is potential for Swissvale Borough to do curb cuts and soil additions on Harrison Avenue in front of the three store fronts since these are being done on Noble Street. There is currently no money in the budget for trees but this could be a potential location for a TreeVitalize grant. Since the deadline has passed for a fall application, this can be done by the committee in the spring of 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.