



Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee

May 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

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

Other Attendees: Jan Raether- NMRWA

The meeting started at 7:15 PM and was held via Zoom.

Penn State Extension webinars

Gib, Mike, and Jan highly recommended attending the Penn State webinars. They have proven to be extremely informative.

Tree Tags

Julie Ann has created the tree tags to be hung on trees planted by the SSTAC over the past few years. Julie Ann questioned what email address should be put on the tags for the Rotary. Terry will contact Tracey Crombie Collins to get that information.

In lieu of the pandemic and social distancing, hanging the tree tags will act as our Arbor Day Event this year. The tentative date will be Saturday, May 30th at 10:00 AM dependent upon the availability of the mayor to read the Arbor Day Proclamation. Terry will contact the mayor about this date.

Availability of trees and sites for plantings

Gib and Kurt each received two small trees to be used in some capacity for a tree planting. The committee did not apply to Tree Vitalize for trees for a fall planting, due to the lack of requests or conducive sites. Two requests for three trees came in for a storefront along Harrison Street. However, there is no grassy area and concrete would need to be cut to create tree pits. At this time, cutting tree pits is not an option.

The committee will continue to collect sites in the hope of applying to Tree Vitalize for 10+ trees in the fall. Along the streets by Dickson Preparatory STEAM Academy could be a possible site for future trees. Mike suggested looking on Hampton and St. Lawrence Streets. In locations without sidewalks, planting trees in the yards could be a possibility. The committee is to contact Jan if there are sites like this that seem promising. The next Tree Vitalize application will need to be sent in early August.

Jan reported that there were approximately 15 people who applied for trees through the Citizen Tree Project. Even as deadline for the Citizen Tree Project has passed, there could be a possibility of a late applicant being approved. Contact Jan with this information.

Nine Mile Run initiatives

Jan reported that the NMRWA staff continues to work from home. While events have been cancelled, there are virtual events posted on the website.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40.

The Arbor Day Proclamation will be read by the Mayor of Swissvale on Saturday, May 30th at the parklet at the corner of S. Braddock and Church Streets. Tree Tags will be hung afterward.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10th at 7:00 p.m.