



Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Commission Meeting June 9, 2021

Members Present: Gib Miller, Julie Ann Mountain, Cynthia Pagesh, Kurt Summersgill, Mike Takas, Perry Recker, Barbara Grabowski,

Other Attendees: none.

The meeting began at 7:04 p.m.

1. Gib updated us on the Tree Vitalize Grant App: Plan is for 24 at Universal Academy, Hampton St, plus 9 elsewhere. He removed the Harrison St locations. WPC has lots of applications but seemed positive about ours.
2. Recent 22 planted should get watering bags. Jan said he had 30 bags. DPW said they would look into water buffalo to fill them with.
3. Mulching in June: best not the weekend not 19th Community Days weekend. Mike can be available: if just a few people maybe just one location, e.g. business district. Maybe parking lot off Noble. Tentative decision: 9 AM the 26th, near the Farmers Market.
4. Zoom meetings will continue for a while. Wilkins Community may open up in the Fall. Year before we had a membership to support use of space. We will play it by ear this year. Consensus seemed to be that zoom is working fine for us.
5. We still need a lead to draft articles for *The Swissvalian*. Look at last few issues for examples. Some input came from Upstream PGH (e.g., spotted lanternfly, webworm). Word format sent to Jocelyn. Every 2 months. July August has submission. Sept-Oct input needed for an August 1st deadline. Maybe tag team editing. Mike will try writing a draft.
6. Two tree requests have come in. We should get in touch to find out what they want. Property is at intersection of St. Lawrence and Lehigh. Person Cynthia mentioned a native ornamental, perhaps like a Serviceberry or Dogwood. Other one on Union -- no one knows exactly what they want. Likely a yard tree.
7. Blueberry bushes. Cynthia would like 9, Perry thinks that number will be no problem. Cynthia thinks another good location might be where large pines came down at Universal Academy. Inside of sidewalk, Tree species may depend on WPC choices. Al, at the school, has mentioned an edible garden. We may want to run the idea past the people in the S Community Action Committee which started up with the Community Garden.
8. Pruning question: from a liability standpoint: no ladders, stay on the ground. Greg gives a list to tree service twice a year or so whenever enough trees needing work have accumulated. The Borough also has bucket truck which DPW crews work with but major pruning is best done in the Fall or Winter during dormancy. We are limited to staying on the ground but suckers and lower epicormic branches are fair game. We can also do clean up pruning when working as a group doing planting or mulching. Using a pole pruner is also an option for us, if we don't mind carrying or hauling one around.
9. Mike asked about working in vacant lots. Gib will talk to Greg and Borough Manager. Invasives, also mentioned earlier, are a major problem in empty lots as well as along roadsides. [Added later by P.R.: there are lots of bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera Maackii*) around Wilkins School CC.]
10. We are responsible for updating tree inventory. People are free to try their hands at doing it -- just be sure to put a date in the first column on the left

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.