

**Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes, August 10, 2016**

Members Present: Terry Ward, Kurt Summersgill, Heather Lyle, Gib Miller, Melissa Jenereski  
Absent: Matt Mercurio  
Others Present: Borough Councilman Darrell Rapp; Jared Manzo, NMRWA Urban Forestry Manager

The meeting began at 7 p.m.

**Old Business:**

The committee discussed the 6 zone tree survey that members had volunteered to record. Using online forms and addresses provided by Jared, we evaluated trees that had been listed in poor condition during a large tree survey done years ago. A number of these “problem” trees had since been removed, while others have issues such as dead branches and/or suckers that should be pruned. Several committee members said that they had trouble judging tree canopy and conditions, but noted whatever information they could about each tree. Jared will prioritize the worst trees and forward the online survey results to Greg Bachy by mid-September, so that Greg can use the data to better plan the DPW budget.

Darrell stated that the Borough has a bucket truck, but currently has no DPW staff skilled at pruning. Some solutions suggested: training for at least 2 DPW staff and/or hire a professional tree service to trim the more difficult trees. The Borough could get a bid for pruning a certain number of trees at a time.

**New Business:**

Jared reported that Nine Mile Run Assoc. had submitted a grant application for Swissvale to get trees from TreeVitalize Pittsburgh, and that he expects to hear back from TreeVitalize this fall. He and NMRWA will be involved in creating a much-needed green strip along Ardmore Blvd. in Wilksburg, and will submit a grant application to TreeVitalize on behalf of that project in Spring 2017. Swissvale should write its own tree grant applications for Spring 2017, as Jared’s time will be committed to the Wilksburg plan.

Jared is writing a brief article for the Fall 2016 Swissvale Borough newsletter. Another step in publicizing the Shade Tree Committee will be a web page linked from the Borough’s main web site. Melissa will contact Sara Ansell in the Borough office to get SSTAC web pages published. The web pages are a “work in progress,” to be altered as needed. A tree request form for residents will be included with other SSTAC information; we can use the form created by Nine Mile Run Assoc. Darrell will also hand out some tree request forms at the Woodland Hills district “Back to School” event that he is attending.

Jared/NMRWA has already submitted a 3-borough grant request to the PA DCNR for money to complete a professional tree inventory for Swissvale, Wilksburg and Edgewood. He should know in Spring 2017 about grant results, in a very competitive process.

Darrell advised committee members to meet soon with Greg Bachy, to allow Greg to budget money for a professional tree inventory for Swissvale, in case the PA state grant isn’t awarded. Gib offered to meet with Greg. Jared can write a “scope of work” document for Greg to use in securing bids for tree work in the future.

Darrell reported that some improvements are coming to the playground on Collingwood Avenue; he and Jared are going to look for possible spots to plant trees near the playground.

**Action Items:**

Melissa: call Sara Ansell and get SSTAC web pages posted online

Gib: meet with Greg Bachy

Jared: GET MARRIED!! in August; send prioritized list of trees surveyed to Greg Bachy; write "scope of work" document; write brief newsletter article; visit Collingwood playground with Darrell

Next meeting: Weds., Sept. 14 at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Heather Lyle