

## Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee

February 10, 2016

Members present: Melissa Jenereski, Gib Miller, Terry Ward

Absent: Matt Mercurio, Heather Lyle, Kurt Summersgill,

Others present: Jared Manzo, Greenlinks Coordinator, NMRWA, Darryl Rapp, Swissvale Borough Council Member

The meeting began at approximately 7:05.

### Tree Ordinance

The Tree Ordinance has been submitted to Swissvale Borough Council. Darryl explained that the ordinance must be posted/advertised in a public newspaper. The posting in the *Valley Mirror* will state that the Borough of Swissvale will be voting on this ordinance at the March meeting. The actual ordinance will not appear in the newspaper. Darryl will check to get it online.

### Tree Survey

DCNR reached out to Council about a tree survey. At the January Council meeting, a presentation was given by a forester. Greg Bachy and Clyde Wilhelm will be meeting with the DCNR forester to discuss this tree inventory. The SSTAC feels a member of the shade tree committee should also be in attendance at this meeting. Jared is getting in touch with Greg/Clyde to make arrangements to attend. Gib is also willing to attend this discussion. The SSTAC wants to make sure the scope of work prepared by NMRWA and this committee is shared with this representative.

It is NMRWA and the SSTAC's goal to get this tree inventory done during 2016. The inventory is needed in order to develop long term plans for trees in the Borough of Swissvale. As per the ordinance, a report from the SSTAC to the Swissvale Borough Council is due in August. Long term plans should be included in that report.

In addition, there is concern that any grant coming from the state of PA may take longer to get due to the state budget situation. It would be more realistic for the Borough of Swissvale to apply for a state grant to be used for long term plans. The Swissvale Borough budget is done in August/September, so inventory data should be available by July for the committee to form long term plans.

### Tree Vitalize Grant

Swissvale Borough Council agreed to NMRWA writing the grant. Jared has touched base with people in Swissvale interested in getting trees. Darryl brought up combined sewer areas as a possibility for needing trees. There was discussion about how Swissvale is not entirely in the watershed. Jared explained he is still able to help Swissvale areas that are outside of the

watershed. NMRWA is committed to working with Swissvale as a whole. He did explain that not everyone who wants a tree will have the requirements necessary for receiving the tree. Adequate space for the tree pit, utility lines, curbs, etc. can all factor into receiving trees.

### **SSTAC Webpage**

, Greg Bachy has been in touch with Melissa about the SSTAC webpage. The committee wants the Shade Tree webpage to be on the Swissvale webpage. We need to decide what exactly we want to include on this webpage. Suggestions included:

- Mission
- Vision
- calendar of events
- upcoming events
- map of streets with trees
- important links

Nine Mile Run Watershed Association

Tree Vitalize

- application for street trees

Melissa will be putting ideas on a google.doc for the committee to review and make suggestions.

There was a discussion about the Swissvale Borough webpage. Darryl explained that the Borough has a contract with an outside source but there is an in-house person who can update information. There have been some changes in personnel in the Borough which can account for information on the current webpage to be less than current. Any content the SSTAC would want to have on the Shade Tree page would be sent to the contractor to be set up.

### **Other Business**

Jared stated that NMRWA would be willing to give DPW workers a class in pruning.

### **Things to do before the next meeting:**

- \*Plan to attend the February 24th and March 2nd Swissvale Council Meetings
- \*Read and add more detail to the Tree Guidelines/add stump removal guidelines
- \*Add suggestions to Melissa's ideas for the webpage

**The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30.**

**Next meeting: tentatively March 9th**

Minutes prepared by Terry Ward