

**Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, September 14, 2016**

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

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

Old Business:

Gib forwarded the online Swissvale problem trees survey results to Greg Bachy for review.

Jared reported that Nine Mile Run Assoc. has received the grant for Swissvale to get trees from TreeVitalize Pittsburgh this fall; and that he expects to hear soon about a 3-borough tree inventory grant request to DCNR.

New Business:

Matt has resigned from SSTAC due to business pressures, but he can help us with technology problems, as needed. The committee will seek a replacement. Melissa may be moving out of the borough this spring, and will keep us posted.

Gib reviewed the application process for TreeVitalize grants. SSTAC will submit a grant request by mid-March 2017, starting to write this application at the October meeting. Jared has received 4 or so new requests for street trees from Borough residents, and we expect to get more requests as a link to the request form becomes available online. Each proposed site must be reviewed as to sidewalk width, nearby utility poles/wires, access to residences, etc. TreeVitalize also reviews each location before awarding a grant to plant trees. Some tree requests will be denied if proposed sites aren't up to standards. TreeVitalize selects the types of trees to be planted, although SSTAC can suggest some preferred types. To complete the grant application, the committee will need the amount budgeted for tree care in Swissvale, plus the Shade Tree Ordinance, a signature from Clyde Wilhelm and signatures from residents requesting new trees adjacent to their properties.

Melissa is working with Sarah Ansell in the Borough office to get SSTAC web pages published, to include: tree request form for residents, tree problem complaint form, tree planting guide, Borough Shade Tree Ordinance, photographs of tree events, names of SSTAC members, link to NMRWA, and other SSTAC-related information--great work by Melissa, with assistance from Matt. Sarah has been very helpful, Melissa reported.

Jared stated that approximately 14 new Swissvale trees will be planted on October 29, 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers should meet near the corner of Nevada and Harrison. There will be refreshments and lunch arranged by NMRWA staff, who will guide the tree planting. The contractor will already have dug out and backfilled tree pits along Harrison and Michigan. TreeVitalize delivers a tree to each selected spot, and then planting begins. Committee members and friends are encouraged to participate in easy digging, mulching, etc. NMRWA will provide the mulch and watering, stewarding the young trees for 1-2 years.

Darrell suggested that SSTAC members attend the September 28 Borough agenda-setting meeting, to announce that we received the grant to plant trees this fall. Gib and Heather are attending. Darrell recommended that we also explore Tree City USA status for Swissvale, which would help with future grant applications. He stated that Swissvale will be replacing old street parking restrictions signs during the next 2 years, and that SSTAC should ask DPW to not post metal signs directly on trees, as has been done in the past.

SSTAC will request that money for more mulch be budgeted by DPW.

Action Items:

Melissa: call Sarah Ansell re: timeline to get all SSTAC information posted online ASAP

Gib: let Greg Bachy know that SSTAC is applying for a new TreeVitalize tree grant for Fall 2017

Gib, Heather, others: attend September 28 Borough council meeting

Next meeting: Weds., October 12 at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Heather Lyle