



### **Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Commission Meeting**

**April 12, 2023 7:00 pm via Zoom**

Attending:, Barb Grabowski, Gib Miller, Julie Ann Mountain,

Cynthia Pagesh, Perry Recker, Kurt Summersgill

- Tree City USA - We received notice on March 17, 2023 that our 2022 Tree City USA application was approved. A recognition letter and associated materials should arrive before Arbor Day. If anyone has time, please look at the Arbor Day Foundation email that I forwarded. There is a link to Tree City Center which may have some worthwhile information for the committee. Gib has contacted Greg Bachy and Jordan D'Ambrosio again about installation of the extra Tree City USA signs that were procured last year with help from SEDCO.
- Universal Academy Event - Mike has begun discussions with Universal Academy about a tree event. In order to involve the students, it will have to be during a week day when they are in school. Activities could be tree identification, tree care, what's the importance of urban trees, or how trees are picked for each location. Mike will follow up with the principal or the science teacher and see about a good date. Mulching, tree care or watering could also be important things to cover. A handout for home might also be a good idea. Drawing pictures and looking up information about some of the new trees could be a good activity depending on the age group involved. We will have to schedule a date soon to have the event this Spring.
- Wilkins School Cleanup - Perry has been checking with Wilkins School about coordinating a cleanup event on the hillside between the school building and Braddock Avenue. The new Wilkins School director seemed interested. Perry answered her questions. We will plan to do the cleanup on May 13, 2023 starting at 9:00 am. If possible, SSTAC members can show up at 8:00 am to get started early.
- Hawthorne Place Mulching - Gib has been in contact with Dave Yargeau at Mon Valley Initiative. Dave is going to confirm whether their maintenance crew will be taking care of mulching the tree pits in front of the apartment building or whether the SSTAC will need to get involved as a small tree care event.
- Fall 2023 Tree Vitalize Application - Gib has been in contact with Alicia and Brian from Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. We currently have requests for four residential street trees and eight replacement trees on Edgewood Avenue along the Busway. We will need to schedule a site visit with Brian by early May. The application is due by June 1, 2023. Alicia needs to send a link to the application.
- Woodstock Tree Walk and Swissvale Busway Park and Ride Entrance - Kurt, Perry and Gib met with a group of residents from Woodstock Avenue on March 18, 2023. There seemed to be a good amount of interest in starting to plant street trees in the empty areas along Woodstock Avenue. So far, we have received one application. This will likely be a phased effort like Harrison Avenue, once residents see the look of new trees in the neighborhood.
- Pollinator Garden Work Sessions - We have had SSTAC participation at both of the first two Pollinator Garden work sessions on March 11, 2023 and April 8, 2023. The third work session is scheduled for May 6, 2023 at 10:00 am. The sessions have been well attended. Five Paw Paw trees were provided by Tree Pittsburgh.
- Naomi's House Tree Planting - Through coordination with Tree Pittsburgh, there will also be a tree planting in the vacant lot next to Naomi's House at 7528 Roslyn Street on May 6, 2023 starting at 9:00 am. An SSTAC presence there would be welcome.