



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

**May 10, 2023 7:00 pm via Zoom**

Attending:, Barb Grabowski, Gib Miller, Perry Recker, Mike Takacs

- Universal Academy Event Recap - The tree presentation on May 25, 2023 went very well, especially for a first time effort. It was a lot, but all of the students, from pre-K to 8th grade, seemed to enjoy it and hopefully learned something new about trees. Sharouq Bader, the UAP principal, was very appreciative. Gib asked Sharouq if she can forward some photos of the event for SSTAC records.
- Wilkins School Cleanup Recap - The cleanup was held on May 13, 2023 and the crew was all SSTAC (Perry, Kurt and JulieAnn.. Gib has asked Jordan D'Ambrosio from the DPW multiple times to pick up the debris from the cleanup, but the DPW has been short staffed and was not able to do this yet. Reports from the cleanup were that a lot of progress was made, but that more work is needed.
- Hawthorne Place Mulching - Mon Valley Initiative (MVI) held an employee work session on May 19th to take care of the front hillside and exterior of Hawthorne Place on Hawthorne Street. MVI did not mulch the tree pits, this work still needs to be done.
- Church & Braddock Parklet - SEDCO, Swissvale Rotary and Sarah Ansell from the Borough met with Masoud Sayles from Grounded Strategies on June 8, 2023 to try to determine a plan for completing the Church & Braddock Parklet. SEDCO plans to have a booth at the Swissvale Juneteenth celebration on June 17 and also at the Swissvale 125th celebration on July 29, 2023 to obtain community input. The hope is to work with Borough Council to complete the parklet by this Fall. Separately, Gib put more new soil at the base of the Chinese Elm in the center of the parklet along with a layer of mulch. This tree is finally starting to show some potential, but is still located in a very poor soil location.
- Tree City USA signs - Since the DPW has been very short handed, Gib arranged with Jordan to get the four new Tree City USA signs, along with the 7 year stickers. Gib and family were able to put up two more signs. One is on Braddock Avenue coming into Regent Square from Forbes Ave and the other is on Commercial Street coming into Swissvale from Swisshelm Park. We will have to discuss options for the other two signs.
- Fall 2023 Tree Vitalize Application -Gib met with Brian Crooks from Western Pennsylvania Conservancy on May 12, 2023. All of the tree sites were considered acceptable and the application was submitted by the June 1st deadline.. One additional tree request was received and was added to the application to reach a total of sixteen trees being requested.
- Perry is still looking for a non-profit to take over the three empty lots on LaClair Avenue. CLASS and the Allegheny County Landbank had deferred taking action, but the Landbank plans to revisit in January 2024.