



# ABINGTON TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION

## MEETING NOTES

### MARCH 18, 2015

Participants: Joe Ascenzi, Cakky Evans, Tim Gilmour, John Kennedy, Charlie Soboleski, Rita Stevens

Handouts and Exhibits:

- Agenda
- February 11, 2015 STC Meeting Notes
- Newsletter content- Roslyn Revitalization
- Thoughts on developing a municipal tree plan
- STAR objectives and measures

## 1. ARBOR DAY PREPARATIONS

### PROGRAM

The annual Abington Township Arbor Day celebration will be held on Saturday, April 25, 10 AM to 3 PM.

- 10 to 10:30 AM:
  - The day will begin with a brief ceremony that includes the annual Arbor Day proclamation, presentation of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree City USA the TD Green Streets awards, and dedication of the 'Grove at Grove' education circle.
- 10:30 to 3:00 PM:
  - We are actively recruiting volunteers to assist with planting of 5 ball and burlap and 7 bare root trees within Grove Park, bare root tree distribution, mulching and pruning of established trees. Members of the STC, PHS Tree Tenders, TD Bank and the St. Luke's Tiger Cubs have offered service.
  - We will host an information center featuring Roslyn Revitalization and the TD Green Streets project, and signup for free trees and volunteer service for the fall planting phase of this project.
  - The Abington Township STC will host a "bring your own" tool sharpening station. We will offer assistance with cleaning and sharpening hand tools including pruners and shovels.
- Noon to 3:00 PM:
  - The Abington Township watercolor workshop will host the second annual watercolor display and demonstrations. This feature will continue on Sunday, April 26 from noon until 3 PM.
- 1:00 to 1:30 PM
  - The Abington Township EAC will conduct a rain barrel workshop. Orders for rain barrels may be placed at this time.
- 2:00 to 2:30 PM
  - The Abington Township STC may host a chain saw carving demonstration ( Charlie Soboleski to confirm)

### B&B TREE PLANTING PREPARATIONS

- Guided by the master site landscape plan, Joe Ascenzi and Elaine Rosenberg staked out the planting sites for 5, 2½-3" caliper native *Nyssa sylvatica* trees to form the structure and shade for the outdoor education area.
- Joe Ascenzi will tag the trees at the nursery in early April, and arrange for delivery to Grove Park ideally April 20-21.

- Rita Stevens will request assistance from the Parks and Recreation department for site preparation in advance of the tree delivery. Details are captured separately.
- Joe Ascenzi and John Kennedy will be available as needed to site the B&B trees prior to the April 25 event

**BARE ROOT TREE PLANTING PREPARATIONS**

- Trees will be delivered to Grove Park by Upper Dublin Township
- Rita Stevens will review proposed tree planting sites within Grove Park with Doug Wendell and the Friends of Grove Dog Park
- Rita Stevens and Kathy Weir will coordinate training and logistics for bare root tree planting to take place on other sites during the April 25-26 weekend.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of Trees</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>Date</b>
Ardsley Community Center	2	Eagle Project	April 26
Crestmont Park	5	Eagle Project	April 26
St Peter’s Church	3	St Peters’ congregation	April 25
EAC Sites	2	EAC	April 25
Grove Park	7	STC TD Bank volunteers St Luke’s Tiger Cubs Tree Tenders	April 25
Individual Homeowners	6	Homeowners after training at Grove Park	April 25

**TOOLS**

- Rita Stevens will arrange to borrow tools from the PHS lending library at Primex. The TD Green Streets grant budget will cover purchase of some of these tools.

**PARKING**

- Rita Stevens will request assistance with parking for this event through Tara Wehmeier

**PR**

- TD Bank launched a national press release on March 17, 2015
- Rita Stevens will provide TD Bank and the Arbor Day Association a finalized event information form by March 28. TD Bank will provide a vertical banner for use at Grove Park in advance of the event.
- Rita Stevens and Kathy Weir will work with STC and township staff members to complete the PR package.

**2. ZONING ORDINANCE**

Per communication with Mr. Narcowich in early March, the STC looks forward to feedback regarding the plant list and other recommendations submitted in response to the draft 1 zoning ordinance rewrite.

**3. ADVISORY**

There are no outstanding requests for assistance.

#### **4. GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS (MASTER LIST OF ACTIVE PROJECTS)**

##### ARBOR DAY (Grove Park, 10 AM April 25)

Arbor Day Proclamation and Tree City USA award will be supported by a DCNR forester and a TD Bank executive.

Kickoff TD Green Streets project- focus on planting Grove at Grove + planting and distributing bare root trees listed above. Details captured above.

The Watercolor Workshop will host 2<sup>nd</sup> annual show.

The Abington Township EAC will promote during the April 11 paper shredding event, and host a rain barrel workshop on April 25.

##### BBNC

Glen Stevens is assisting with GIS and tree inventory process, in support of a C2P2 Grant. Rita Stevens will represent the STC on the project steering committee. BBNC is hosting a year-long series of tree –related events. STC is co-promoting.

##### CRESTMONT PARK AND ARDSLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

The focus is planting 5 bare root trees at Crestmont Park and 2 bare root trees at Ardsley Community Center on Sunday, April 26. The lead volunteer group for this project is Troop 48 Glenside, in support of an Eagle Service Project. Rita Stevens will coordinate with Andy Oles. Additional volunteers welcome.

##### MASTER TREE PLAN

The STC envisions developing a multi-year municipal tree plan, ideally in the 2016-2017 timeframe. During 2015, we will continue with the following supporting activities: Tree City USA, Zoning Ordinance Development, the BBNC C2P2 project, implementation of the MTRP and TD Green Streets projects, street tree inventory and maintenance, review of existing plans, and support of the STAR evaluation. We anticipate applying for a C2P2 planning grant in 2016.

##### MTRP PROJECT (Roslyn Valley Business District)

We are awaiting first payment from DCNR. Rita Stevens will follow up.

##### PHS TREE TENDERS TRAINING (May 5, 12, 19, Abington Friends School, 6 to 9 PM)

Please promote participation. Register here: <https://www.pennhort.net/treetenders>. The \$\$25 registration fee will be waived for anyone who offers volunteer service during 2015 for the TD Green Streets project.

##### PLANTING TREES CAMPAIGN

Judy Rosenberg volunteered to research and partner with STC for effective outreach to homeowners who are not inclined replace trees. Rita and Charlie will assist. Target is for a fall 2015 promotion.

##### STAR SUSTAINABILITY RATING PROGRAM

Cak Evans provided an overview of the STAR program, for which Abington has been recently awarded a training grant. During 2015, The STC will support the EAC lead in providing tree-related data and analysis to support evaluation of Abington Township's current state of sustainability. Contact Cak at [AbingtonSTAR@gmail.com](mailto:AbingtonSTAR@gmail.com) for more information.

## TD GREEN STREETS

Abington Township in partnership with PHS has been awarded \$20,000 for Roslyn Revitalization. The Abington Township Board of Directors approved on March 12, 2015. The project will kick off on April 25 with the planting of trees within Grove Park. Details are captured separately.

## WISSAHICKON WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Julie Slavit of TTF recently connected Rita Steven with Chris Dartley of the Wissahickon Watershed Association. Rita and Chris walked the Grove site on March 17, as a means to being to explore shared interests.

Cakky Evans suggested that the STC might also consider connecting with the Streamkeepers organization for matters related to streams and riparian areas.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS- ARDSLEY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

Tim Gilmour initiated discussion about possible approaches to improve the woodlands and trails within the Ardsley Wildlife sanctuary. The group brainstormed a number of approaches, including volunteer cleanups, scout projects and tree tending. Rita Stevens and Tim Gilmour will contact Doug Wendell and Dennis Zappone to develop these ideas, and the potential of growing a volunteer base to conduct a significant bare root tree planting project in the spring of 2016.

**NEXT MEETING DELAYED ONE WEEK: April 15, 2015, 7:30 to 9:00 PM Grove House**