

Abington Township Shade Tree Commission
Meeting Notes
August 12, 2015

<p>Participants: Joe Ascenzi Tim Gilmour Bill Becker Ed Hayes John Kennedy Charlie Soboleski Glen Stevens Rita Stevens Kathy Weir</p>	<p>Handouts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agenda ● STC financial statement (8/12/15-corrected) ● Abington Township List of Recommended Plants (draft 8-4-15) <p>Exhibits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TDGreenStreets- planting map ● Edgehill/Tyson Reconstruction Project-proposed swale design ● Tree and Shrub booklets available through VA Forestry
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Highlights:

Opening: Welcome to new volunteer Bill Becker!

1. Budget - Reviewed and updated budget and spend for active and pending projects.

- a. The net available funds for the remainder of 2015 is approximately \$13,000, which we expect to spend on trees, materials, tools and signage associated with the TDGreenStreets and public tree planting projects in November.
- b. We anticipate writing off the promised, but not delivered, MTRP project in the amount of \$5,500, due to PCF cancelling this program.
- c. We submitted a provisional application for a PCF pruning grant (\$5000 to \$20,000 depending on funding availability) to match township landscaping funding for the pruning of street trees as guided by the professional tree inventory completed in February 2014.
- d. We plan to write a series of proposals in late 2015 and early 2016 to support Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary restoration (Tre Vitalize, MS4, C2P2)

2. TDGreenStreets Project

- a. **We sketched out the planting plan** for November 2015 and identified lead volunteers to develop sufficient detail to enable us to place the tree order by the end of August. We have funding and projected volunteer capacity for

approximately 60 trees, and to date have reserved 49 trees. We will continue to take orders through August or until the program is fully subscribed.

- i. **Grove Park**- estimate 10-12 trees, possibly including river birch, alder, swamp white oak, spring flowering trees such as amelanchier- **Joe and Glen** will choose sites and finalize species selection.
 - ii. **Roslyn Valley Shopping Plaza**- bus stop area- estimate up to 3 trees and possible shrubbery that is suitable for wet planting spaces. Discussed the feasibility of later establishment of a rain garden at this site. **Charlie and Rita** will develop site design, and work with property owner to determine final design. STC position is to provide woody plant material as laid out in the TD grant proposal; any site development would need to be handled by property owner.
 - iii. **Residential properties**- as of this writing (8/14/15) we have reserved 36 trees for residential and church properties within the project footprint. Kathy and Rita will coordinate final tree selection and logistics
- b. **We began to develop the volunteer plan**, and will continue to do so in September
- i. **Tree Tenders**- To date approximately 10 Tree Tenders have volunteered to assist, in addition to the core STC group. **Rita** will continue to recruit with PHS assistance
 - ii. **Scouts**- we have requested assistance from one scout troop and identified 3 additional troops to contact. **Rita** will follow up
 - iii. **Horticultural Schools**- we identified Temple, MCCC and Arcadia as potential sources of knowledgeable volunteers. **Rita and Bill** will follow up
 - iv. **Friends and Associates**- all are requested to recruit through personal connections
 - v. **Volunteer Orientation**- PHS is lined up to co-chair a volunteer orientation session at Grove Park on Tuesday evening, October 27. **Rita, Anna and Barley** will develop details during September.
 - vi. **Safety and Food**- we defined the need to set up safety stations on both sides of Easton Road, Since our meeting, Living Word Church has agreed to sponsor the safety station to complement that at Grove Park. We anticipate serving drinks and lunch for volunteers
 - vii. **Dates and Times**- we agreed to focus volunteer slots in 3-hour increments- Thursday November 12 morning with TD Bank employees, and Saturday morning and afternoon November 14 with community volunteers. We set a goal to recruit sufficient numbers of volunteers to complete the planting during these times, and to reserve November 15 as a contingency date.
- c. **We began to develop the tools and materials plan**, and will complete in September.
- i. **Purchased tools**- We agreed that tools for this project will be limited to hand tools, and the number of tools will be scaled according to anticipated

number of 3-person planting and tree-care teams. It was also suggested that we purchase a pole saw. **Joe** will specify a basic tools set to be replicated (e.g. bucket, hand pruner, shovel, spade, tarp, gloves), pole saw and solid-tire wheelbarrows. We anticipate purchasing **higher quality tools for ongoing use, to be stored at Grove**. Rita and Kathy will assist with determining the number of sets, and **Tim and Charlie** will assist in completing the purchase plan.

- ii. **Materials-** we will need to specify materials needed for marking and planting , including stakes, ties, mulch, marking paint, and tree gators for public trees. Joe offered to donate tree tags.
 - iii. **Borrowed tools-** we identified the need to borrow a 2-person auger to speed site preparation, and staff this with qualified operators; also to borrow stake drivers, digging bars, and picks and other tools that need only occasional use.
 - iv. **Education plan.** We began to discuss the educational plan, centered on educational boards located at the Grove House and near the riparian restoration area. We have an Eagle Scout candidate identified to assist with building and installing bulletin boards. **Bill and Rita** will work together to create an appropriate set of educational materials.
3. **Additional Tree Planting Projects-** in addition to TDGreen streets we are preparing for a number of additional fall planting projects, with the vision of achieving a grand total of 100 trees planted in 2015
- a. **Parkdale Avenue-** Keswick Commons Owner is working with **Joe and Rita** to specify approximately 10 fastigate street trees for the perimeter of the Keswick Theatre parking lot. STC volunteers will assist the owner's landscape team in planting and demonstrating proper pruning methods of the new and existing street trees
 - b. **Ardley Wildlife Sanctuary-** we propose to plant approximately 10 large canopy trees along the drive to provide shade for pedestrians. **Rita and Tim** to lay out proposed planting sites and define species, guided by trees that are well established in this or of the sanctuary, and to identify volunteers for planting the trees. We recognize the need to coordinate with township staff to establish mown buffers so that invasive species do not compete with the newly planted trees. Possible tree selections include shag bark hickory, sycamore, oaks (but not red oaks), metasequoia and maples
 - c. **Hallowell Park-** we propose to plant 5 trees - to complete the line of street trees on the south side of Kenmore avenue and to provide a visual buffer at the end of woodland Avenue. **Anna and Rita** will work with township staff to select planting sites, and with friends of the Park to plant the trees.
4. **Plant list to support the zoning ordinance-** we reviewed and adopted the draft document dated 8-4-15 that relies upon noted authorities for a range of planting situations.

Rita will submit to township staff and the Zoning Ordinance Committee.

5. **Advisory- Penn State Dorms-** we recognize the need to monitor and comment as needed throughout the approval and development process. Rita will coordinate with Mark Penecale, and request an electronic copy of the plans so that STC members can review outside of meeting time.
6. **Let's Talk Trees Series-** John will take the lead on native plants (September 21) and Rita on caring for our forest (October 5). STC members are encouraged to participate to provide a discussion format for these events.
7. **ISA Certification and CEUs.**
 - a. **ISA certification** classes will be held starting in October at PHS. See their website for details.
 - b. **ISA CEU's-** Rita will seek to set up a process by which active STC members can receive ISA CEU's for participation in STC programs