

Allentown Shade Tree Commission

May 23, 2024 7:00 pm Agenda

Zoom - <https://zoom.us/j/92252581473> Meeting ID 922 5258 1473

Phone in 1-646-558-8656

Call to Order 7:05pm

Salute to the Flag

Roll Call

Terry Brown
Kristine Hyer
Bob Mayer
Lisa Strovinsky
Michael Sullivan
Suzanne Valpreda
Valerie Pellecchia (excused)
John Elder (council liaison) (excused)

Compliance Statement

In compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" Chapter 231, PL. 1975, Section 5, adequate notice has been given of the meeting by posting a Notice in a public place and by transmitting a Notice to two newspapers, THE TIMES and the ASBURY PARK PRESS as required by law.

Approval of Minutes

- Approval motion Lisa
- Second by Mike
- All in favor

Announcements and Information

- DPW change of management and council change. Terry has been in several meetings with the team and we are awaiting confirmation of main point of contact/hierarchy of ownership
- Sewer lines need camera scoping to determine any possible leak. If a leak is determined, heavy equipment will need to be given access to Heritage Park. Potential temporary road or clear cut. Reps from different committees have been made aware.

STC Volunteer Hours

- Terry Brown - 31
- Kristine Hyer - 4
- Bob Mayer - 1
- Lisa Strovinsky - 3
- Michael Sullivan - 6
- Suzanne Valpreda - 3
- Valerie Pellecchia

Public Participation

- One person observing

Old Business

- Hazard tree assessment in Union AME lot
- Invasive plants in Borough Parks
- Trees in Ashby

New Business

- Schedule Pruning in Heritage Park
 - Team will prune as they are available for the paved walking path, tree line, and inside walking path.
 - Any dead limbs and branches will be taken down as well as any crossing
 - No bigger than ½ inch diameter or 8ft length
 - Commission will be pruning for health of the trees
 - Gordon street lot and church street lot will be where the cuttings will be dropped
- Schedule the Relevant Tree Biology course
 - Steve would like to do a walk around. Remainder of May and June is open, aside from Father's Day weekend
 - Course is approximately 2 hours
 - Aiming for June 27 meeting date but will follow up. Backup date is Thursday June 13th
- Invasive plants discussion
 - Invasive plants are present in the parks.
 - Ivy has come over some fences and there is an ordinance for this
 - Commission will focus on one invasive species at a time. This will be added to the 5 year plan
 - Multiflora Rosa, burning bush, autumn olive, wisteria and English ivy are the main ones noticed for now.
 - Next focus will be autumn olive
 - After that, we will notify necessary points of contact that the burning bush will need to be removed, possibly in the fall. This is to be determined
- Ashby Park "meadows"
 - Roberts engineering has taken over DPW
 - There is a committee in charge of all items Ashby Park
 - There is talk of looking to replace with something easy to maintain, and easy to identify
 - Maintenance is the current challenge.
 - Potential to replicate the barrier areas in a small test space as a trial run
- Five year plan (added during meeting)*
 - Add a helpline for master gardeners that Suzanne will run

- Plan for yearly maintenance of invasive species
- Follow up for streetscapes
- Continue to identify spots we can plant new trees and implement encouraging homeowners to plant
- Develop a binder for DPW for best practices and a homeowner manual
- Create a recognition program for town beautification for homeowners
- Possibly create more pollinator corridors
- Town clean up days/Arbor Day plans every year

Adjournment 8:24pm