

NEW HOPE BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for March 17, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Gloria Broeker, Chairperson

Others present: Anita Maximo; Robert Margadonna; Krayl Funch; Frank DeLuca; Laurie McHugh, Council Liaison; Dana Dentice, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, via WebEx

The minutes for the February 17th meeting were approved.

Old Business:

- Pending items:
 - A review of tree pits on Bridge Street between the river and canal confirmed that several pits are good candidates for porous pavement; will coordinate with Code Enforcement regarding sidewalk issues on 3 & 9 Bridge St. to potentially replace trees at the same time – awaiting Bridge Street Project to be rebid. **Update:** No update.
 - Updates to *List of Approved Plants and Shade Trees* (June 2021). Will include identifying any tree species representing a large percentage of the current tree canopy. **Update:** Work in progress; based on last year's inventory, Norway maple represents about 12% of the tree canopy.
 - Potential grant opportunities. **Update:** PHS program TreeVitalize provides grants for trees. Also provides subsidized bare-root trees for municipalities and communities with Tree Tender groups. Planting is done twice a year (April and November).
 - Tree Inventory update for 2021: **Update:** SavATree will conduct it during the first week of May. It will include the trees in the Borough parks and parking lots.

New Business

- **Applications:** Revised application form, removing \$10 fee, now posted to the Borough website.
- **PHS, Dana Dentice via WebEx:** Provided presentation for “Trees for PA Communities”. PHS established in 1827. Focused on partnering with communities, providing access and supporting economies. Tree Tenders is a key program. TreeVitalize is a grant program focusing on watersheds and riparian locations. Annual tree program that is a cost-sharing program in the fall. Provides advocacy for trees based on cost/benefits. Tree Tender Plantings are bare root trees, 1 ½ inch caliper. Next application will open in mid-August for this fall. DCNR provides some funding for TreeVitalize. See PHS website for information and tool for tracking tree health and other resources. Advanced Tree Tender class is archived. Julianne Shieffer is Penn State extension support person for communities planting trees.
- Coordination with the property management company of area along W. Bridge Street for new tree plantings in spring 2021; Arbor Day event on April 23, 2021. **Update:** Bob, Krayl and Gloria met with the property management company. Seven trees will be planted in various locations around the parking lot. PLS will donate labor. The trees will be purchased by New Hope Center Associates (4 trees) and STC (3 trees). Trees will be planted prior to April 23rd. Gloria drafted a press release; Krayl will finalize and distribute it to merchants within the New Hope Center for them to partner with the Commission. Mayor Keller will be present along with other Borough employees.
- Discussion of potential sites for additional Tree City USA sign; second location southbound entry to the Borough. **Update:** Tom Carroll has created a collage of the signs, including the Tree City USA, for the southbound entry into the Borough. Other tree sign will be placed at the Visitors Center on S. Main Street.
- Long-term plans for the STC:
 - Establish a long-range street tree replacement plan, incorporating prudent risk management techniques and trending conditions noted in the 2020 tree inventory.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Next meeting: 7:00 pm on April 21, 2021