

**Franklin Township Shade Tree Commission (STC)  
Meeting Minutes – April 24, 2008**

STC Attendees:

Jeff Baumley  
Mark Evans  
Al Galdi  
Berit Marshall  
Frank McLaughlin  
Larry Miller  
Mike Orsini  
Arnold Schmidt

Missing STC Member:

John Brewer

Public attendees:

none

**Agenda and minutes for April 24, 2008:**

1. Call to Order: Mr. Orsini called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and passed out the agenda.
2. Approval of Minutes (March 2008): No minutes were available for March, so Mr. Orsini recommended STC skip to agenda item #3. Mr. Brewer (absent tonight) recorded the March minutes in Mr. McLaughlin's absence.
3. Arbor Day and Tree Sale Wrap-up: Mr. Orsini summarized the Arbor Day and tree sale. Photos taken by Mr. Brewer were posted on the township's web. An Arbor Day proclamation is expected to be passed by township council first council meeting in May (Tuesday 5/6). The proclamation is expected to be similar to a Certificate of Appreciation that was drafted by former STC member Ms. Jean Gerlach several years ago. Mr. Orsini asked for ideas for next year's tree sales. Ideas discussed by STC members included (1) limiting tree orders to two trees, (2) earlier and more extensive advertisement and (3) choosing two flowering trees and one shade tree. Mr. Baumley suggested that the STC initially order [25] Yoshino Cherry, [25] Thundercloud Plum and [25] October Glory Red Maple, and STC could add to the order after getting orders from residents.
4. Old Business:
  - a. Status of CEU write-ups: Mr. Baumley handed out a Continuing Education Unit (CEU) proposal for plant identification & nursery tour. Mr. McLaughlin did not have his CEU proposal for geology and soils field trip.
  - b. GPS Mapping of significant trees: Mr. Baumley and Mr. Orsini will work with Mr. John Loos (Franklin Township Open Space Consultant) on Global

- Positioning System (GPS) training for STC members. The GPS training would allow the STC to map significant trees in the township.
- c. Issues/Complaints (Hans Voji, Hunter Crossing, other): Franklin Township received a complaint for lack of shade trees on Hans Voji. Some STC members (Mr. Orsini, Mr. Baumley) believed that the developer (K. Hovnanian) was required to plant shade trees. Mr. Orsini will check on this. At #21 Hunters Crossing, about half of trees on the property were cleared and #1 Hunters Crossing filed the complaint. Mr. Orsini will follow up on this.
5. New Business:
- a. Tree City USA: Franklin Township just received a new plaque and banner commemorating 7 years of Tree City USA participation.
  - b. Middlebush Road Work: Large trees have been removed for the proposed improvements at the South Middlebush Road & Amwell Road intersection. STC members (Mr. Baumley and Mr. Orsini) met with the county previously to select new tree plantings, which are expected to occur spring 2009. STC members will supervise the plantings.
  - c. Newsletter piece for summer—future suggestions: Mr. Orsini submitted an article and pictures regarding proper mulching for the summer edition of the Franklin Township newsletter. Regarding ideas for future newsletter articles, STC discussed historic treed landscapes in the township, such as the sycamores along Amwell Road planted by the Mettler family in the 1920's. STC also discussed highlighting neighborhoods where trees are an important part of the character of the neighborhood.
  - d. Trees the need removal—work-post office/New Brunswick Road: Post office has several dead trees that need removal. New Brunswick Road has most trees, including about 5 tree lilac and about 5 cherry trees that need to be removed (and possibly replaced). Trees along DeMott Lane need to be pruned because of suckering. Mr. Evans will put in work requests to Franklin Township Public Works for tree removal at these locations.
  - e. Fall Planting: STC discussed possible fall planting locations. Mr. McLaughlin suggested planting at the new Tot Lot on DeMott lane, which has no shade trees to shelter young children and parents.
  - f. Other New Business: Mr. McLaughlin reported that a 2-foot high soil berm was placed at the base of a red maple as part of landscaping at a new house along Bunker Hill Road, which would likely kill the shade tree within a year or two. Mr. Orsini said that he would drive past to inspect (Mr. Baumley may also drive by).
6. Dendrology Class: Mr. Baumley presented several examples of flowering trees and bushes to STC, including Kwansen Cherry, White Dogwood, Jane Magnolia, and American Red Bud.
  7. Public: No public attended.
  8. Adjourn: STC adjourned at 8:59.