

**Franklin Township Shade Tree Commission (STC)
Meeting Minutes – May 22, 2008**

STC Attendees:

Jeff Baumley
John Brewer
Al Galdi
Frank McLaughlin
Larry Miller
Mike Orsini
Arnold Schmidt

Missing STC Members:

Mark Evans
Berit Marshall

Public attendees:

none

Agenda and minutes for April 24, 2008:

1. Call to Order: Mr. Orsini called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and passed out the agenda.
2. Approval of Minutes (March, April 2008): Delayed until after item #3 was discussed. Both March 2008 and April 2008 minutes passed unanimously.
3. Plan for June trip: Mr. Baumley will host the June STC meeting at this house and nursery. He will provide a tour and lecture about plant identification, growth and other information to educate STC members. The meeting will start at 7:00pm at Mr. Baumley's residence in Franklin Twp.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Status of CEU write-ups: Mr. McLaughlin handed out a Continuing Education Unit (CEU) proposal for geology of Franklin Twp for review and consideration.
 - b. GPS Mapping of significant trees: Mr. John Loos (Franklin Township Open Space Consultant) will train Mr. McLaughlin on Global Positioning System (GPS) and Mr. McLaughlin will train STC members.
 - c. Trees that need removal/work-post office/New Brunswick Road: Mr. Orsini will remind Mr. Evans this work still needs to be completed.
 - d. Middlebush Road Work: Mr. Baumley warned that construction equipment and trucks are parked (and traveling) too close to the trees to be saved. Mr. Baumley believes that the soil underneath the trucks and equipment will be permanently compacted and could result in damage or death to the affected trees. Mr. Baumley recommended that all trucks and heavy equipment be kept beyond the drip lines of the trees or, if not practical, at least 15 feet from the tree trunks, with the areas protected with snow fencing. Other STC members voiced support for

these recommendations. Mr. Orsini will immediately notify Township Administrator Ken Daly and Somerset County Engineer Patricia Bates-Smith to implement Mr. Baumley's recommendations.

5. New Business:

- a. Tree removal-township: Franklin Township is removing numerous trees from the Library and Municipal Building complex to expand parking areas. Mr. Orsini talked with Maureen Sturgeon of the Township about replacing the removed trees and will follow up with her after discussing this with STC. After STC discussed this situation, STC recommended that the replanted trees should be Green Vase Zelkovia and October Glory Red Maple.just received a new plaque and banner commemorating 7 years of Tree City USA participation.
 - b. NRCS Bunker Hill tree planting: NRCS (National Resource Conservation Service) has monies to do a reforestation project. They chose a former agricultural parcel (which is preserved open space that is part of the Ten Mile Run Greenway. NRCS will work with STC and Township consultant John Loos on this reforestation project. Mr. Orsini indicated that STC could get tree 'whips' from the State Tree Nursery in Jackson Township. NRCS want to involve the community in this project and STC supports this. Mr. Orsini suggested that STC also reach out to other township committees (e.g., Environmental, Open Space).
 - c. Issues/discussion: Mr. McLaughlin indicated that 2-3 feet high berm was constructed along a new residence on westbound side Bunker Hill Road south of the Ten Mile Run Greenway. The soil berm was placed around a mature Red Maple tree, which will likely become damaged and/or die because of the emplaced soil. Mr. Orsini will look into this situation. Mr. Galdi discussed the future of the STC tree pen on his property and said 10-15 trees could be saved for use by STC for township projects. STC discussed planting these trees at the new playground behind the Municipal Building, near the skate park where STC did a planting in 2006. STC discussed that this may be a good fall 2008 project. Mr. Galdi would likely mulch the rest of the plants in the STC tree pen after the 10-15 healthy shade trees were removed.
6. Dendrology Class: Mr. Baumley presented several examples of flowering trees and bushes to STC.
 7. Public: No public attended.
 8. Adjourn: STC adjourned at 8:55.