

**Franklin Township Shade Tree Commission (STC)  
Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2011**

STC Attendees:

John Brewer  
Mark Evans  
Al Galdi (arrived at 7:45)  
Berit Marshall  
Frank McLaughlin (arrived at 7:38)  
Mike Orsini  
Arnold Schmidt

Absent STC Members:

Jeff Baumley  
Larry Miller

Guest attendees:

John Loos, Franklin Twp. Open Space Consultant

**Agenda (underlined) and minutes for April 28, 2011:**

NOTE: Mr. Frank McLaughlin, STC Secretary, arrived at 7:38 while the meeting was in progress (Mr. Mike Orsini, STC Chair, provided notes for the first part of the meeting).

1. Call to order/sunshine law: Mr. Mike Orsini called the meeting to order at 7:30 and passed out the agenda. STC attendees for April 28, 2011 are listed above.
2. Approval of Minutes (addressed at the end of the meeting):
  - a. January 2011 Minutes: Mr. Arnold Schmidt motioned (seconded by Mr. Al Galdi) to approve the January 2011 minutes (motion passed unanimously).
  - b. February 2011 Minutes: Mr. Schmidt motioned (seconded by Mr. Galdi) to approve the February 2011 minutes (motion passed unanimously).
  - c. March 2011 Minutes: Mr. Galdi motioned (seconded by Ms. Berit Marshall) to approve the March 2011 minutes (motion passed unanimously).
3. New business:
  - a. Invasive management plan for Negri Nepote (John Loos): Mr. John Loos, Franklin Township Open Space Consultant, presented a plan for the Negri-Nepoti grasslands to remove invasive plant species and replant areas with native plants. Mr. Loos is requesting Shade Tree Commission funds for the project, which owned by Franklin Township and purchased by township open space monies. After the presentation and some discussion, Mr. Orsini suggested that the Shade Tree Commission utilize its funding to allow expenditures of up to \$5000.00 for the project for planting of trees and preparation of land (volunteers would remove invasive species). Mr. Loos thought this would be sufficient to purchase and install plantings.

- b. DeMott Jughandle: Mr. Orsini and Mr. Galdi provided a summary of the current conditions of the DeMott Jughandle, which included drought-killed evergreens. Mr. Orsini indicated he that would email Somerset County to request them to pay for the trees (Franklin Township would pay for labor).
  - c. Thompson Park Jughandle: Mr. Orsini provided a summary (many trees died as a result of last summer's drought) and he indicated he that would email Somerset County to request them to pay for the trees (Franklin Township would pay for labor).
  - d. (added; discussed after minutes were voted on) DPW Update: Mr. Mark Evans provided the update of the Franklin Township Department of Public Works (DPW) activities and plans. Mr. Evans indicated that the plantings for Flemer Preserve (14 trees) and Naaman Williams Park (23 trees) were completed (4/11 and 4/12) from plants left over from the 2011 tree sale. Mr. Evans said DPW was currently placing plants at Inman Park (~25 trees). Mr. Evans said DPW was planning to place trees at Butler Road Natural Area and Memorial Forrest in the near futures.
4. Old Business:
- a. Arbor Day and Tree Sale Update: Mr. Orsini updated STC: (4) customers and total sales of (17) trees.
    - i. Arbor Day proclamation: No action taken.
    - ii. Ideas for better Publicizing Tree Sale: Discussed by STC. No actions taken. Mark Evans indicated that Franklin Twp. Department of Public Works (DPW) wanted to plant at a site on JFK Boulevard. STC also discussed planting on the north side of Butler Road. Mr. Orsini proposed Sat 4/2 at the planting date; Mr. Orsini and Mr. Evans would coordinate with Franklin Twp DPW.
  - b. Tree City USA: Mr. Orsini has finished the report for the state and will be sending the report out shortly.
  - c. STF Membership Cards: No action taken.
  - d. Tree law CEUs-Brief Discussion-Berit Marshall: Ms. Marshall and Mr. Orsini provided a brief summary. No action taken.
  - e. (added) Other: Mr. Orsini informed STC that there was an opening on the Open Space Advisory Committee for STC representation. No action taken.
5. Dendrology: No dendrology demonstration.
6. Public Discussion: No public in attendance.
7. Adjourn: Mr. Orsini motioned (seconded by Ms. Marshall) to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 (passed unanimously).

Respectfully submitted by,

Mr. Frank McLaughlin