

A regular meeting of the Shade Tree Advisory Commission (STAC) was held tonight at the Cheltenham Township Administration Building. Those in attendance were: Bernard Panzak and Lewis Ruberg. Staff liaison in attendance was Robert Habgood, Assistant to the Director of Planning & Zoning.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Panzak at 7:32 p.m. A quorum was not present.

2. Reorganization with election of Chair and Vice Chair.

As there was no quorum, the reorganization of STAC Chair and Vice Chair was tabled until the March 8, 2018 meeting.

3. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2018.

Mr. Habgood reported a request for a change in the minutes from last month per Ms. Koval to change the word "commended" to read "recommended". The corrected sentence shall read "Ms. Koval recommended that the Commission members walk the property and thanked them for rejecting the submitted landscape plan."

Mr. Ruberg motioned to accept the minutes with the correction of January 11, 2018 as noted. Mr. Panzak seconded, and the motion was supported by those in attendance.

4. 8009 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027 review of landscaping plans for the alteration of the existing service station to a convenience store with gas pumps.

Mr. Habgood summarized that this property is a gas station located at Old York Road and Stahr Road and had previously come before the Zoning Hearing Board for zoning relief to convert the service bay areas into a convenience store while continuing the gas pump operation. A condition of the zoning relief was to install landscaping.

David S. Hodulik, P.E. from DSH Engineering, Inc. presented the landscaping plan to the Commission. Mr. Hodulik advised that two (2) trees, a Red Oak and a Swamp Maple, were to be planted along Stahr Road with Yews between the trees. Sergeant Junipers were proposed at the intersection and additional Yews along Old York Road.

After much discussion the Commission recommended planting two (2) Columnar Sergeant Cherries in place of the Red Oak and Swamp Red Maple, along with adding three (3) Yews along Stahr Road. Also a mix of five (5) Sergeant Junipers and three (3) Yews was recommended along Old York Road.

Mr. Ruberg recommended the removal of the two (2) existing Ailanthus trees in the right area of the property since they are hosts to a new insect and they are also considered an invasive species.

Mr. Ruberg made a motion to recommend approval of the plan as amended. Mr. Panzak seconded, and the motion was passed by those in attendance.

5. **Old Business** – Mr. Panzak advised that he visited the property and met with John DiBenedetto, architect for the Enclave at Kerlin Farm with respect to their landscaping plan. He stated that discussion occurred with respect to landscaping outside the proposed limit of disturbance, location and types of trees to be planted. He agreed to submit a summary of their meeting.
6. **New Business** – Mr. Habgood reported Kevin McCartney from Bohler Engineering was present to address the Commission regarding the area along Shoppers Lane with respect to a berm that has been placed along the roadway. Mr. McCartney explained that the contractor for the Greenleaf at Cheltenham Mall project had excess material and requested to construct a berm with the material. Mr. McCartney stated that three (3) trees were removed in the area of the berm.

Discussion ensued with respect to the following:

- Impact of the berm on existing tree roots.
- Accuracy of berm location.
- Trees that were removed.
- Location of the sidewalk.
- Proposed planting schedule.

The Commission recommended to Mr. McCarthy that the proposed planting be dispersed on both slopes and at the top of the berm, and that the applicant reconfirm the location of the berm on the plan submittal. Mr. McCarthy agreed to follow up and to submit revised plans for review.

Mr. Habgood recommended that a revised plan be submitted by March 1, 2018 for placement on the March 8, 2018 Shade Tree Advisory Committee meeting.

Mr. Ruberg updated the Commission about a recent discussion with Township Staff regarding the condition of a tree on Township property. Mr. Ruberg also advised of a seminar that he attended on Tree Risk Assessment Qualification where individuals could be certified to perform risk analysis on trees. A program such as this could be utilized on Township owned trees and he made a recommendation that Cheltenham Township could possibly check with surrounding municipalities to determine what programs they use to evaluate trees on public properties.

7. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Panzak made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ruberg seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.



Bryan T. Havar
Township Manager

Per Patty Gee