

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Panzak at 7:34 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. Acceptance of Minutes from the November 14, 2019 meeting.

Mr. Ruberg motioned to accept the minutes from the November 14, 2019 meeting. Ms. Plotnick seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Review of CTDA #19-04 – Land Development and Lot Consolidation for 1750 Ashbourne Road (Elkins Estate), Elkins Park, PA 19027

Mr. Panzak recused himself and turned the meeting over to Mr. Ruberg. Lisa Thomas, President of Glackin Thomas Panzak Inc. provided an overview of the proposed landscaping plan.

Ms. Thomas reported that the site consists of 40.4 acres with 885 trees of 6” caliper or greater and it was discovered that approximately forty (40) trees on the survey were not on the site. Ms. Thomas reported that 168 trees are proposed to be removed and 229 trees would be planted. Ms. Thomas added that the site does not meet the requirement of a wooded lot in the Township Code and therefore the tree replacement would be voluntary.

Ms. Thomas highlighted the following aspects of the revised landscape plan:

- Walking trails and a tennis court have been re-aligned to save trees.
- If reserve parking by the Stable is constructed at a later date, seven (7) additional trees would be removed, however more landscaping would be added.
- The trellis by the Power House was reduced in size and the band shell slightly relocated to deter the removal of existing trees.
- Plans indicated the location of five (5) additional 16 foot tall lighting fixtures in the parking lot area which would be incorporated with the proposed landscaping.
- Evergreen trees to be planted along the parking lot to act as a buffer to residential homes in the surrounding neighborhood.
- Variety of trees to be planted around the proposed parking lots.

Discussion ensued with respect to the following:

- A list of the species and quantity of each tree to be removed.
- Creating a street scape by planting shade trees along Ashbourne Road and Penrose Avenue and possibly planting shade trees on the outside of the wall by the Stable.
- The proposed Cherry Trees by the main entrance and the Dawn Redwoods along the main drive access.
- Screening between the outside dining area and parking lot.
- The idea of adding a large Birch tree to the planting list.

Ms. Thomas stated that they are willing to relocate some proposed shade trees on the property to address the concerns raised by the STAC regarding the street scape.

Recommended trees by STAC for the property were Dawn Redwood, Copper Beech, River Rye Beech and European Beech (not American Beech as indicated on plan).

Ms. Plotnick motioned to recommend approval of the revised landscape plan with the condition to relocate shade trees along Ashbourne Road and Penrose Avenue and to add one (1) or two (2) River Rye Beech trees. Mrs. Middleton seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. **Old Business** – Mr. Robert Hyslop, 21 Harrison Ave., Glenside, PA and Ruth Kennedy, 26 W. Waverly Rd., Glenside, PA were in attendance and voiced their concerns regarding the many proposed landscaping plans presented by WAWA. Mr. Hyslop stated plans were presented on the following dates: September 20, 2019, October 10, 2019, October 18, 2019, October 24, 2019, October 28, 2019 and November 6, 2019. WAWA was on the November STAC agenda but the developer did not attend.

Mr. Sekawungu reported that the WAWA Development received a conditional approval from the Board of Commissioners with condition #6, indicating that the landscaping plan shall be revised to conform to the conditions of the STAC meeting on October 10, 2019 to the extent consistent with the current layout as shown on the plans as revised after the STAC meeting and as accepted by the Public Works Committee meeting on November 6, 2019.

Mr. Panzak stated that STAC would like WAWA to return for a review of the revised landscaping plan, and requested that STAC be sent a copy of the Board of Commissioners' Resolution for review.

5. **New Business** – Mr. Habgood reported that the Township received a notice from PECO that they would be removing a declining Ash tree at the Glenside Library.

Mr. Ruberg commented that STAC was created years ago when PECO began removing trees and added that PECO had become more aggressive in their tree removal practices as opposed to tree trimming and that the trees being removed were not being replaced.

Discussion ensued with respect to whether PECO had a grant program with funding that could be used for tree replacement, and a recommendation by Staff to contact PECO's Vegetation Management Department to make a presentation to STAC on their process.

6. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mrs. Middleton made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Plotnick seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Per Patty Gee
Recording Secretary