



WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISORS

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WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Off Site Meeting Location at the home of Joan B Knies
Meeting: Tuesday - August 17, 2010 at 7:00 PM
Attended by: Joan B Knies, Andrew P Meehan and Joseph T Steuer (Chair)

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- Joe opened the meeting by presenting a copy of the Shade Tree Commission proposed 2011 operating plan. The plan presents key initiatives accomplished for 2008 and 2009; activities for the current year, 2010; and, planned initiatives for the next two years, 2011 and 2012. After review and discussion, the 2011 operating plan was unanimously approved. *(A copy for reference is attached to the minutes.)*
 - The Commission proceeded to review the 2011 proposed budget, which will be required to support the operating plan. The total amount of the requested budget is \$22,000, which represents a 4.4% decrease from the 2010 approved budget. This level of funding will allow the Commission to:
 - Continue the annual Arbor Day beautification program required for Tree City USA recognition (year) and Growth Award designation (year).
 - Continue the Shade Tree Commission's participation in the annual Earth Day program directed at the Township's elementary school children.
 - Provide ongoing maintenance and preservation of champion trees identified in the Whitpain Township Heritage Tree Registry.
 - Provide the next level of Commission education by funding attendance at a community tree conference at the Arbor Day Foundation's Lied Lodge and Conference Center in Omaha.
 - Collaborate with Montgomery County Community College to earn Arbor Day Foundation designation as a Tree Campus USA.
 - Provide tree design and planning for open space, park property and other identified areas that will benefit from a tree planting project.After discussion, the Commission unanimously agreed to submit the budget to the Township for review, consideration and approval.
 - The Commission reviewed the thirteen trees that were selected for nomination to the Bureau of Forestry "Big Trees of Pennsylvania" registry. Andy, Joan and Joe will measure, photograph and document each of these trees and submit nomination forms with the goal of having one dozen of Whitpain Township's most magnificent trees listed in this state-wide registry. It was noted that this project was a natural extension of the Whitpain Township Heritage Tree Registry which was published last year and will provide additional awareness and publicity for Whitpain's champion trees.

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- Joe reported that he had registered the Commission for attendance at the 2010 Community Forestry National Conference. He noted that this year's conference was being held in Philadelphia, and as the premier national tree conference would be informative, educational and relationship-building. Joe noted that Mayor Nutter will open the conference as the featured guest speaker on November .
- Andy reviewed this year's Township Heritage Tree renovation project. He discussed the three trees that have been selected for preservation noting that the most pressing need is work on the Township's largest black cherry. He reported that this work would be completed within the next several weeks. Work on a butternut and the Prophecy Creek Park champion sycamore will take place in the fall.
- Andy noted that he will shortly remove a small tree that is blocking the fire right-of-way at the High Gate community (Skiptack Pike roadside). This obstruction was brought to the Commission's attention by Ron Cione.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:15PM. The next two Shade Tree Commission meetings will be site visits during September and October to complete the 'Big Trees' project.