



FACTORYVILLE BOROUGH

Monthly Meeting Minutes – Monday, February 2nd, 2026

The Factoryville Shade Tree Commission's monthly meeting was held on Monday, February 2nd, 2026 at the Factoryville Library. The meeting was called to order at 11:09 am by Joe D'Antoni and seconded by Matt Vlassis.

PRESENT

Joe D'Antoni
Matt Vlassis
Gabe Sorak

ABSENT

ALSO ATTENDING

Linda Tucker

OLD BUSINESS – There was no Shade Tree meeting in January. Minutes from the October 2025 Shade Tree meeting were reviewed and approved by all members. The group reviewed meeting times for 2026. All members confirmed that the first Monday of the month at 11am in the Factoryville Library would continue to work. Joe D'Antoni reviewed all members current status and term durations as per his email exchange with the Borough in the fall of 2025.

NEW BUSINESS – Joe mentioned he had recently emailed the Borough all the information required for this year's Tree City USA application.

The group identified Arbor Day 2026 as the last Friday of April, 4/24. Some potential ideas for this year's celebration were shared. Joe mentioned he had some seedlings growing in pots that could potentially be used for plantings at some point in the future. Linda and Matt discussed the greenhouse at Keystone and some student projects planned during that week.

The group reviewed tree health and conditions at Kemmerer slope and Civic Club Way. Joe mentioned that the severed sugar maple stem that was hung up on power lines had finally been cut up and removed. The group discussed ideas for a stick cleanup on the slope and to identify additional trees that should be removed in the spring. The group discussed the idea of removing the small honeysuckle shrubs at Civic Club Way to allow for easier mowing paths for Jim and to allow for the catalpa and elm to continue to grow and provide shade.

Joe mentioned he was having difficulty locating the second eastern white pine planted at Creekside Park. The group agreed to conduct a walkthru when snow melts to attempt to locate.

The group discussed mountain laurel as a potential shrub for plantings as it is the state flower of Pennsylvania. All mentioned a shared interest in planting, but that more research was needed to confirm growing conditions.

The group reviewed the Annual Work Plan bullet points for the months of January and February. The group discussed visiting the tool shed and sharpening some metal tools. All agreed that work items are on track and according to schedule.

New Factoryville Mayor, Lou Jasikoff stopped by and introduced himself to the group. Lou mentioned a project he was planning with the Lackawanna Trail Elementary Center to plant a small fruit orchard. Lou asked if Shade Tree was interested in participating and assisting students with the planting. All agreed this was a fantastic idea and agreed to keep in touch with Lou via email.

The group did not conduct a post-meeting cleanup.

Matt motioned to adjourn, Joe seconded; meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.

The next Shade Tree Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 2nd, 2026 at 11am.

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