



## FACTORYVILLE BOROUGH

Monthly Meeting Minutes – Monday, January 6th, 2025

The Factoryville Shade Tree Commission's monthly meeting was held on Monday, January 6th 2025 at the Factoryville Library. The meeting was called to order at 10:44am by Joe D'Antoni and seconded by Monika Buczek.

### PRESENT

Joe D'Antoni  
Monika Buczek  
Matt Vlassis

### ABSENT

Gabe Sorak

### ALSO ATTENDING

**OLD BUSINESS** – Minutes from the December Shade Tree meeting were reviewed and approved by all members. The group reviewed the conifer plantings that were approved by Council for Creekside Park.

**NEW BUSINESS** – The group discussed early spring as a likely first available time to plant the conifers at Creekside Park since the ground is currently frozen, and temperatures look to remain cold for the next few months.

The group reviewed the current situation as emailed by Shannon Canter regarding the lack of available funding (\$2,000 annual deposit) for 2025. The group speculated possible reasons for the Council's decision to pull the money, and everyone hoped this would not be a permanent change in the budget.

The group also reviewed the possibility of moving the Shade Tree to Keystone College as per the recommendation by Council. Matt mentioned the fact that a faculty member would likely need to oversee the group, and that funding was recently a major issue for the school. Monika filled everyone in on the current accreditation situation, and indicated that many students transferred out of Keystone over the winter break. Monika also mentioned that some of Keystone College is geographically located in LaPlume and that LaPlume is what the college uses for its official mailing address. Everyone agreed that these variables do not lend themselves to re-locating the group to Keystone College.

Joe presented the group with an old "Annual Report to Council" that Shirley Golembeski had left to him from 2016. In the report, it outlined the annual value that the Shade Tree Commission brings to the Borough in terms of labor, machinery, volunteer hours, plantings, assets, etc. The group thought that a report like this might be something worth re-visiting and possibly presenting to council annually as an appeal for continued funding and to highlight efforts completed throughout the year.

The group decided it should plan to meet with the Borough Manager or attend an upcoming council meeting in order to discuss options for the future, and to get some answers to the many questions the group has in more detail. Joe mentioned he was awaiting a response to the email he sent to Shannon before the Christmas break.

The group briefly discussed the ongoing desire to design a spring bare root tree planting for the Lackawanna Trail Elementary Center playground area. Joe mentioned that he thought the group still had a few thousand dollars in the Shade Tree bank accounts and that we would probably be able to sustain those costs this year if we decide to continue with the plan.

Matt mentioned he would like to move the monthly meeting time up from 10:30 am to 11:00 am, continuing on Mondays if possible. Joe said he would ask Shannon if this change could be implemented.

Joe provided an update on the Annual Work plan document which he said is continually being updated on a month-to-month basis to more accurately reflect the work the Shade Tree is doing throughout the Borough.

**Monika motioned to adjourn the meeting, Matt seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 am.**

The next Shade Tree Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3rd, 2024 at 11:00 am.