



## FACTORYVILLE BOROUGH

Monthly Meeting Minutes – Monday, March 3rd, 2025

The Factoryville Shade Tree Commission's monthly meeting was held on Monday, March 3rd, 2025 at the Factoryville Library. The meeting was called to order at 11:05 am by Monika Buczek and seconded by Matt Vlassis.

### PRESENT

Joe D'Antoni  
Monika Buczek  
Matt Vlassis

### ABSENT

Gabe Sorak

### ALSO ATTENDING

Linda Tucker

**OLD BUSINESS** – Minutes from the February Shade Tree meeting were reviewed and approved by all members. The group reviewed news of the accreditation approval for Keystone College and all shared in the positive outcome. Joe D'Antoni and Matt Vlassis made sure Matt had access to Google Drive where the Shade Tree documents are managed.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Keystone faculty member and Factoryville resident, Linda Tucker was in attendance and introduced herself as an Assistant Professor of Botany at Keystone College. Linda told the group that she is currently in her second year working for the school. Linda mentioned that she also advises Keystone's Eco Club of which Monika and Matt are also members. Linda expressed a genuine interest in trees and volunteering projects related to Shade Tree initiatives and all agreed to recommend her to council for vote as a member. Linda provided Joe with a piece of mail which included her Factoryville address.

Joe reviewed the Planting Plan and Tree Planting Proposals he submitted to TreePennsylvania and Lackawanna Trail Elementary Center. Joe reviewed the proposal in detail with the group and showed the maps and tree areas as they were presented in the proposal. Joe reviewed the species of the 10 bare root trees and mentioned that the red maple variety will be 'Autumn Radiance' despite the proposal showing 'Red Pointe' maples. Joe said he completed the Google Form and submitted the proposal before the deadline and that he would keep everyone posted with any updates on the status of the grant award process.

The group reviewed the Invasive/Replasive Program as per Jim Gesek's text to Joe. Linda and Monika said they had heard about the program. The group looked up the site online and discovered that there was a scheduled event in Scranton on May 18th. It stated that applicants need to provide before and after photos showing removal of an invasive species in order to qualify to receive a PA native tree in exchange. The group planned to continue to research the number of trees that can be awarded, and what species were being offered at the next meeting.

Monika confirmed that the trees from Jaden are still available and ready to be picked up. The group is preparing a planting day for this spring, and planned to re-address at the April meeting.

Friday, April 25th is Arbor Day, 2025. Monika discussed the idea of having a planting celebration that included Keystone's Eco Club. All agreed this was a great idea. More to be discussed at the April meeting.

The group reviewed the Annual Work Plan bullet points for the month of March. Joe brought up the Linden tree near the swings at Creekside Park that needs to be assessed for health in the spring. Monika pointed out that potentially 2 trees along the TreeVitalize driveway at Creekside Park need to be flagged once leafed out for tree health and possible replacement.

The group decided to do a quick stick/branch cleanup behind the Borough Hall building after the meeting.

**Monika motioned to adjourn the meeting, Joe seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 11:43 pm.**

The next Shade Tree Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th, 2025 at 11:00 am.