

Palmer Township, Northampton County

Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

October 2nd, 2025, 6:30PM, Lower-Level Municipal Meeting Room, 3 Weller Place

1. Roll Call

- a. Present: Shannon Wisniewski, David Demopoulos, Pat Romano, Scott Kistler, Lee Hilbert, Danielle Goff, and Zach Trexler.
- b. Absent: Sandi Bush
- c. The meeting was called to order at 6:51PM.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 7th, 2025, and September 9th, 2025.

- a. Romano made a motion to approve the minutes from August 7th, 2025, and Demopoulos seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.
- b. Romano made a motion to approve the minutes from September 9th, 2025, and Demopoulos seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Old Business

a. Newsletters/Community Outreach

i. Q1 26: (due mid-December) – street tree planting/bare root photos

- 1. Wisniewski stated that we will include photos and a brief summary of the street tree planting program for the next article of the newsletter and the Commission concurred.

b. Grants

i. Tree Pennsylvania Bare Root Spring 2025

- 1. Wisniewski stated that we are still waiting on delivery confirmation from Jessica for the Fall Bare Root Grant trees. She said the soil samples from the previous plantings were reviewed and showed elevated levels in some elements, but that there was no evidence of any foul play. She stated that the results suggest the problem was likely due to overwatering in the Spring.

ii. Tree Pennsylvania Bare Root Fall 2026

- 1. Wisniewski stated that she followed up with Dan McKinney regarding the Spring 2026 tree planting proposal at Keystone Park. She stated that the Rec Advisory Board continues to struggle to meet quorum, but that McKinney was willing to review the proposal himself on behalf of the Board. She said that she plans to attend the October 21st meeting to seek formal support for the Keystone planting area, which centers mainly around the parking lot and back corner.

c. Street Tree Program

- i. Trexler stated that the 2025 Street Tree Planting Program contract was awarded following the last Board of Supervisors meeting approval. He

said the plantings are scheduled to begin on October 28th and conclude by October 31st, with all 50 trees being planted in that time frame.

Wisniewski confirmed with Trexler that photos will be taken for newsletter and documentation purposes.

- ii. Trexler noted that an additional replacement tree was assigned to a resident who resides on Hilltop Circle since we had one tree open up.
- iii. Wisniewski suggested that an email chain be created with all tree recipients being included where communication can be sent regarding monitoring and maintenance of the trees. Wisniewski clarified that watering is to be done by the contractor for the first year, but that residents are encouraged to supplement if the gator bags appear to be empty.
- iv. Wisniewski suggested issuing a short post-planting survey sometime in November to gather feedback on communication, clarity, and ease of participation. She stated that the responses would be kept internal to the Commission unless overwhelmingly positive with the goal being to improve future program logistics and engagement.
- v. Discussion was held regarding the budget for 2026, and Wisniewski suggested maintaining a similar budget to this year, somewhere around \$20,000 to \$25,000 in order to replicate the program's success. The consensus was to build a resident participation queue for recurring annual plantings.

d. Website content

- i. Wisniewski stated that she submitted proposed reorganized content to Justine for the Township website. She said the goal is to simplify and reorganize all Shade Tree information into three main content areas which aim to improve navigation and readability for residents.

e. ArcheWild 2024 Tree Planting – Replants

- i. Wisniewski asked if any new updates were available and Kistler stated that he has not heard anything from Austin Miller since the original conversation. Trexler confirmed that he would follow up to gain additional information.

4. New Business

a. Plan Review – Greystone Apartments (1492 Van Buren Road)

- i. The Commission suggested planting in a zig-zag pattern rather than a straight line as well as suggesting replacing one of the tree species. They also asked for an update to the schedule since the numbers do not match. The Commission also requested a landscape plan that describes landscaping plans aside from trees. They also recommended planting along the walking path to provide shade, particularly on the benches.

b. Plan Review – Easton Area High School (Sketch Plan)

- i. The Commission asked the applicant to consider full landscaping throughout to create interest, promote biodiversity and to reduce mowing. The Commission also wants the applicant to explain the impact to all existing trees.

c. Plan Review – Chase Bank

- i. The Commission noted that there is a nice variety of trees proposed, but to consider randomizing the tree on the property line to create more visual interest and to reduce the risk of multiple trees being lost in a large area. They noted that the landscape plan is very thoughtful and that the impacted trees on Kingston Road & Nazareth Road are being appropriately replaced per length of road requirements.

5. Reports

a. Board of Supervisors

- i. None at this time.

6. Public Comment

- a. None at this time.

7. For the Good of the Order

- a. Wisniewski expressed her appreciation for member's efforts, noting that the Street Tree Program's first full implementation was a great success.

8. Next meeting: November 6th, 2025

9. Adjournment

- a. Romano made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Demopoulos seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:34PM.