



BETHEL PARK SHADE TREE COMMISSION Minutes

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 6:30 PM

Meeting Called to Order by Brian Tarbert

A. Roll Call

Present: Members: Gregg Ament, Brian Tarbert, Pam Dobos, Brian Joos, Machel DeCarlo; NancyJean Morrison Municipality: Ammie Faunce; Council Liaison: Jim Jenkins; **Guests:** Jennifer Pardini – Tree Tender

Absent: Council Liaison: Dave Espinar, Member: Elizabeth Albright, School Board: Barry Christenson,

B. **Approval of Minutes** – January 17, 2024 – Motion and Second: Greg Ament and Machel DeCarlo. Approved

C. Old Business

- a. *Tree City USA 2023* Application submitted to Arbor Day Foundation. – last November – final stage of review by Arbor Day Foundation – our second year of application. We will also now be eligible for a growth award
- b. *Arbor Day 2024 Planting* – Galway Drive - Friday, April 26th 10:00 am – *Tree Vitalize* Grant. Ask the residents and the Tree Tenders to help that day. After the planting, contact - Chris Rohar durco.chris@bphawks.org – sponsor of the Environmental Club to ask them if they want to help with the upkeep of the area.
- c. *Park Ave Parking Lot Landscaping* – *Tree Vitalize* - May 24 landscaping scheduled to be finished. Currently working on storm water and conduit in parking lot. 11 Green Giant Arborvitae will be planted on the right side of new parking lot as a barrier for the house that is beside the new parking lot.
- d. *Splash Park Landscaping* – *Tree Vitalize* grant – landscaping completed by April. Suggestion - to use the trees that were taken out from NAMS hillside to populate the hillside with the large rocks at the Splash Pad. Jim Jenkins will follow up about the possibility with the Council.
- e. *Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance* – No movement yet - Greg Ament and Brian Joos are meeting soon to create a proposal to propose community Design Standards to create irrigation plans and landscaping plans as evident on neighboring communities web pages. ex. buffer zones, creating ordinances for tree planting etc. for new buildings, lots, commercial. ex. every new home must have a tree. Comment was made that there is not much to develop in Bethel. The response was to encourage Private and Public entities to work together to plant

more trees and plant tree canopies throughout the community, even when there isn't new construction. ex. Putting trees in the parking lot at South Hills Village, Planting trees around Aldi, encouraging neighborhoods to develop plans for planting trees and or gardens.

- f. *Fall planting - Oak Tree Park* – 3 trees and again possible, wildflowers. There was some discussion about planting trees behind the outfield fence area, both there and possibly at *Millenium*.
- g. *Milford Fire Station*- The Shade Tree recommends a polinator garden with native plants instead of trees – possibly with a gazebo – maybe a Boy Scout project – can still drop in some trees if needed. This would alleviate having to cut and maintain that area.
- h. *Possible Shade Tree Event in 2025* - Elm Tree Park –retention pond 18 inches at deep. This is dependent on the timely completion of the upgrades.

D. New Business

- a. DCNR TreeVitalize Grant – Galway Planting In Review – by end of March - slight changes might be made...based on our submission. There will still be time to purchase the trees for the Arbor Day planting
- b. Brian Joos asked that the commission and the borough consider working with Constructions Specifications Institute – standard called Master Format – designing and delivering construction projects, including landscaping projects.
- c. A question was raised from a tree tender about trees that a resident might plant and whether a resident could plant trees on an easement. Ammie suggested that the resident contact the Zoning officer about questions involving easements.

E. Future Meeting Dates - 2024 – Arbor Day, Friday, April 26, 2024

- i. April 17, 2024
- ii. August 14, 2024
- iii. November 13, 2024

F. Adjournment – Greg Ament and Brian Joos Motion and Seconded. Approved

Recommendations to Council – to be taken to Council by Jim Jenkins

Splash Park Landscaping - Suggestion - to use the trees that were taken out from NAMS hillside to populate the hillside with the large rocks at the Splash Pad after the landscaping project is completed. Free trees, free labor by Shade Tree

Milford Fire Station- The Shade Tree recommends a pollinator garden with native plants instead of trees – (possibly with a gazebo – maybe a Boy Scout project) – can still drop in some trees if needed. This would alleviate having to cut and maintain that area.