



Minutes of STAC Meeting of June 9, 2004

Attending: Ruth Bowers, Arnold Henderson, Gary Minkoff

Meeting commenced 8:08 p.m.

May minutes approved as corrected.

CORRESPONDENCE

Memorial Tree Possibility. Email was received from the Department of Environmental Protection exploring possibilities for a memorial tree for Patrick Huey of Rutgers. The suggestion now being explored is somewhere at the Rutgers Ecological Preserve in a section zoned for conservation, as Highland Park's Section was recently zoned.

OLD BUSINESS

Path to Donaldson Park. Loren has the completion report to DEP in preparation. Arnold has added a group of sensitive ferns, sent photos to the HP environmental web site, and tagged at least one of each species with metal ID tags, and posted also some larger signs similar to those at the Native Plant Reserve, making the path-side plantings into a nature trail. **Watering: will it be by DPW?**

2004 Street Tree Plantings For Fall. STAC hopes DPW will mail letters to owners soon so that we can be assured the owners welcome the trees and will water them. In the past, the time required for mailings and returns has sometimes put pressure on the schedule for going out for bid, particularly if there proves to be a need to find additional sites late in the process

Tree Liability Issues. Gary understands that the borough lawyer has approved our revisions to the wording of the recently passed ordinance regarding tree planting, pruning, and removal by private parties. The lawyer will probably have them incorporated directly, since they are minor enough not to need reconsideration by Borough Council. Frank Troy at DPW probably already has the revised version. Gary will also email to us information he received regarding more general liability issues.

Final Monitoring Report on 1999 Urban Forestry Grant. Ruth has completed the report on these plantings at the Native Plant Reserve, has added Arnold's photos, and is about to send the report to William Kruse.

Urban Forestry Arbor Day Grant. We currently are not applying, although we have contacted the mayor, and she is considering possibilities, particularly at the Native Plant Reserve. All agree it is an attractive site for the county's single Arbor Day planting, as provided by this \$16,000+ grant. Our reluctance is because we anticipate scheduling problems if we win the grant and hence need to plant a large number of trees (80+) at a set date in April, when construction of the Environmental Center will likely be taking place, but with plans too uncertain at this point for us to provide by the June 25 deadline such things as a complete planting plan with selected tree species for each of the 80 or more sites. Arnold will write a digest of ideas we might have in such an application and consult with the mayor, Gary, Ruth, and others. Long-term maintenance (watering, etc.) needs to be considered as well as the event itself.

NPR Work Days. June 6 was rained out. The next will be June 20 (third Sunday). For individuals who wish to do a bit of weeding on their own, a photo ID sheet of major weeds is in the green mail box; mugwort is the main target weed for pulling out. (The county road crew has sprayed much of the Japanese Knotweed.)

NEW BUSINESS

Volunteer pins. These pins were given out at Volunteer Night. Each member can get one from Arnold. They show a star, which refers to the "volunteer star" the Borough arranged to have named. It is a bit below the pointer stars of the Big Dipper (but too faint for naked-eye viewing).

Inquiry on Tree Replacement. An email was received. Owners at 301 S 4 would like to remove their honey locust, which has branches touching wires to the house, and replace it with a weeping cherry. If they do wish to do this, they would contact DPW and work within the new ordinance, which would require hiring a CTE (certified tree expert). Other options the meeting discussed include selective pruning or sheathing of the house electric wire rather than tree replacement.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:35 p.m., with additional discussion to 9:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: July 14, 8 p.m., Borough Hall. (No August meeting.)