

A regular meeting of the Shade tree Advisory Commission (STAC) was held tonight via Web-Conference. Those in attendance were: Lewis Ruberg, Kim Plotnick, Mindy Lemoine and Gail Middleton. Staff liaisons in attendance were: Henry Sekawungu, Director of Planning and Zoning and Robert Habgood, Assistant to the Director of Planning & Zoning. Also present were Commissioner Ann Rappoport, Mark Eisold, Township Engineer and Aaron Holly, County Planner; all of whom were members of the SALDO Committee.

1. Call to order – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ruberg at 7:32 p.m. A quorum was present.
2. Ms. Plotnick made a motion to recommend approval of the February 13, 2020 minutes. Ms. Lemoine seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Lewis made a correction to the June 11, 2020 minutes and stated that he did not commend the applicant, but complimented them on their proposed landscaping plan. Ms. Plotnick made a motion to recommend approval of the June 11, 2020 minutes with the proposed change. Ms. Lemoine seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Review Amendments to Chapter 260, entitled, Subdivision and Land Development, to allow for new Definitions of Arborist, Mature and Street Trees, and Revisions to the Preserve and Replacement of Trees.

STAC members in conjunction with the SALDO Review Committee members reviewed the County memo dated July 2, 2020, which summarized the SALDO revisions and the comments from STAC member Lewis Ruberg. The following items still need to be revised:

- Definition of mature trees being 3” dbh versus 6”.
- Definition of street trees being within ten (10) feet of the curblin e or cart-way and whether there should be a distinction between new development and existing. For existing street trees, these trees that are in the Right of Way.
- For existing features, documentation of vegetation on the site and any existing tree canopies versus including vegetation within 200’ of the proposed development.
- Removal of the line referencing specimen trees since it was already reflected in a prior paragraph.
- Consider tree replacement at 10% versus 25%.
- Change of section 260-409.D.1 to read as follows: “Any subdivision or land development which will result in the destruction of ANY of the trees (dead or alive) three inches (3”) dbh or greater, that would produce a reduction of 10% or more of the total tree dbh in the LIMIT OF DISTURBANCE (LOD) Area, shall replace all the tree dbh MINUS 10% and as reduced by the appropriate credit for preserved trees in the LOD area. If the LOD area does not reasonably contain enough room for the required replacement trees, they may be planted elsewhere on the Land Development lot.”

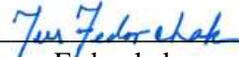
Members of the Environmental Advisory Committee, Wendy Ankrom, Greta Bunin and Michael Freeman were present and expressed their support of STAC and their efforts to preserve tree canopies in the Township.

Ms. Plotnick raised a question about preservation of historic trees, and Mr. Ruberg explained that there had previously been a discussion for consideration of a Heritage Tree Program, but it was determined that the restrictions would have been onerous to homeowners and developers.

4. Old Business – None
5. New Business
 - A. Ms. Lemoine shared that the PA Horticulture Society was working on having a fall tree planting and that she would once again be spearheading additional tree planting in Glenside, which was the area she lived in. She encouraged other areas with tree tenders to join the effort and she would be willing to mentor them.
 - B. Ms. Plotnick asked if there were any updates for posting on the Township website regarding the spotted lantern fly. Ms. Rappoport said she had talked to staff and they are relying on the State and

County for updates and there have not been any lately. Mr. Ruberg provided insights on the issue and agreed it was a public nuisance, but it may not be an issue for the plants specifically, but only time would tell.

6. Adjournment – There being no further business, Mr. Ruberg made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Lemoine seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



Terry Fedorchak
Interim Township Manager

Submitted by Henry Sekawungu

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JOHN COVER, AICP
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thursday, July 02, 2020

SUBJECT: Cheltenham SALDO Revisions

TO: Henry Sekawungu, Director of Planning and Zoning

FROM: Aaron Holly, Community Planner

Henry,

Below is a summary of the changes made to the adopted SALDO based off of input from the Shade Tree Advisory Committee and the SALDO review committee. These changes have been incorporated into an updated draft version of the SALDO for consideration of the Township Building and Zoning Committee.

Summary of Revisions Made From SALDO Committee Meeting 5/26/20

- Added STAC addition of letter R to section 260-103 (p.3)
- Added definition of Arborist (p.6)
- Added addition to Mature Tree or Tree Definition (p.16)
- Added new definition for street tree that is consistent with street tree landscaping requirements in section 260-423 (p. 22)
- §260-201.C.7: Kept 3" DBH as criteria for documenting existing trees on a site (p. 31)
- §260-409.A.3 added language with STAC examples of measures that can be taken to preserve trees on site (p.66)
- Kept current language found in §260-409.A.4.a but changed text to read "...meets ONE OR MORE of the following criteria" (p. 66)
- §260-409.A.4.a.6 : changed to "Undesirable, nuisance, or invasive trees" (p.67)
- Deleted "notwithstanding" from §260-409.A.4.c (p.67)
- §260-409.C: Changed 18"-24" to 18" and greater and changed "respective" to "particular" in paragraph (p. 68)
- §260-409.D.1: Changed "Any subdivision or land development proposal which will result in the destruction of 25 percent (25%) or more of the existing trees..." to "Any subdivision or land development proposal which will result in the destruction ANY of the existing trees..." (p.68). This change will be reviewed by the Township Solicitor to ensure proposed revision conforms with current planning legal standards and case law.
- Updated text in multiple locations to reflect desire of the township to preserve more trees through documenting trees 3" DBH or greater and preserving these trees. This included

replacing any instance of 6" DBH with 3" DBH and also changing instances of "Mature Tree" to read ANY TREE OF 3" DBH OR GREATER

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Holly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Aaron Holly, Community Planner

aholly@montcopa.org

610-278-3748

Untitled

Comments on Letter from Montgomery County Board of Commissioners dated 7/2/20 Concerning SALDO Revisions

Page 16: should be "three (3)". The commissioners, in particular Commissioner Rappoport, want the three inch threshold, because of the Township's storm water problems.

Page 22: definition for Street Tree. There should be a clear distinction between existing Street Trees ("Shade Trees") and Street Trees for new land development. Otherwise, existing trees on private land will come under control of the Township. I thought one of the commissioners was concerned and that this matter was to be discussed in executive session with solicitor Bagley.

Page 31: all trees three inches or greater within 200 feet of the plot are to be documented. I thought the commissioners corrected this. I recommended just the trees on the plot and the neighboring canopy.

Page 67: meaningless statement. Should be - "Unique or Specimen Trees, as well as any trees measuring at least 24" dbh: to be given special attention for their preservation."

Page 68, D. Tree Replacement Planting Requirements: as stated, any tree over 25%, whether dead or alive, needs to be replaced. I thought the commissioners wanted a 10% threshold.

Are we not giving an allowance for dead trees? What about large sites where only a portion is being developed? They may not have to replace any trees if there many trees elsewhere on the plot (e.g. Arcadia University). Also, making the threshold dependent on the number of trees to be removed will create a loop hole for large trees to be removed and not have their canopy replaced. The threshold should be based on total tree canopy to be removed as measured by the trees' dbh.

I recommend: " Any subdivision or land development, which will result in the destruction of ANY of the trees (dead or alive) three inches (3") dbh or greater that would produce a reduction of 10 % or more of the total tree dbh IN THE LIMIT OF DISTURBANCE (LOD) AREA, shall replace all of the tree dbh MINUS 10% and as reduced by the appropriate credit for preserved trees in the LOD area. If the LOD area does not reasonably contain enough room for the required replacement trees, they may be planted elsewhere on the land development lot."

Lewis Ruberg 7/8/20