



Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Commission Meeting
August 9, 2023 7:00 pm via Zoom

Attending: Gib Miller, Julie Ann Mountain, Kurt Summersgill

- Allegheny County Urban/Pollution Corridor Tree Grant - We were not able to submit an application for 2023 based on the short timeline. Barb drafted a letter to request that the SSTAC be put on the list of interested organizations for future similar grant opportunities. Gib will review and edit the draft and then send it to the Allegheny County Health Department under SSTAC letterhead.
- Fall 2023 Tree Vitalize Application - With a couple hours of work on August 5th, Julie Ann, Kurt, Perry and Gib were able to clean four of the nine tree pits along Edgewood Avenue in preparation for the Fall 2023 TreeVitalize planting. All of the dead trees were cut down and left with the rest of the debris for DPW pick up. We're going to try to work this Saturday (August 12th) from 8-10 to finish up the last five tree pits.
One tree on Woodstock Avenue from our application was denied due the space being tight and the presence of another tree in the resident's front yard.
- Treekeeper vs OpenTreeMap - Gib contacted Celine Colbert from PA DCNR and found out that our tree inventory in OpenTreeMap has been transferred to a new online software called Trekeeper which is being sponsored for PA by Davey Tree Service. The web address is <https://padcnr.treekeepersoftware.com/index.cfm?deviceWidth=1920> if you want to check it out.
- Church & Braddock Parklet - SEDCO solicited input from the Swissvale community at the June Nineteenth and Swissvale 125th celebrations. Several ideas were floated, but the consensus is that it would be best at this time to do the basics to complete the park. This includes putting a raised area around the Chinese Elm in the center of the lot bordered by Belgian Blocks and putting in a sidewalk that bi-sects the lot, similar to the foot path that has been worn in already. As was done for the Arborvitae trees on the lot, the grass around the Eastern Red Cedar and Weeping Cherry trees should also be removed and the entire area under the tree grouping be weed-blocked and mulched. This will help to reduce maintenance. Space is going to be left for the future possibility of adding a piece of outdoor art. Gib is going to provide this perspective to Greg Bachy and Borough Council at the next meeting on August 30.
- Mike removed all of the tree stakes and ties from the trees around Universal Academy. A DPW truck drove by while he was there and he asked if they could pick up the stakes.