

## STRASBURG BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 18, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.

Members present: Brad Botchlet, Mary Dresser, Gil Pratt, Curt Reynolds

Others present: Gail Anderson, Secretary

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairman Brad Botchlet.
2. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
3. **Minutes:** On motion by Mary Dresser, second by Curt Reynolds, the minutes of the March 16, 2017 meeting were approved as printed.
4. **Finance Report:** Accepted as printed.
5. **Center Square:** Committee members will meet this Saturday, May 20 at 8:00 a.m. at Center Square to plant the flowerbeds for the season. Mary has plants reserved; she will bring them and lay them out on Saturday morning. Gil will pick the baskets up from Good Harvest. The secretary will bring refreshments.
6. **Marketing Blitz:** Gil Pratt erected the banners at Rutter's and the Swan Hotel late last month. In hindsight, the committee thinks the banners don't have the visual impact that was hoped for. Gail Anderson will research pricing and design options for something bolder. The committee reviewed last year's Borough newsletter copy and made some minor revisions for this year's edition, which will be passed on to the newsletter editor. Yard signs were distributed in anticipation of site lists to be e-mailed by the secretary. Gail Anderson and Ed Zalewski will participate in the Memorial Day parade on the Tree Committee's behalf, with the banners and a decorated tree displayed on the Borough truck.
7. **Other Business:** Review of tree requests for fall planting sparked a discussion on how to encourage greater commitment to long-term tree maintenance on the part of tree recipients. Suggestions included a "commitment clause" on the request form, and engraved tree tags noting the species and "Planted by Tree Committee" that might make people think twice before removing their trees.
8. **New Business:** The members reviewed landscaping plans for the Ephrata National Bank to be constructed at the southeast corner of Historic Drive and North Decatur Street. By consensus, the members concurred with Mary Dresser's recommendation that the bank select species such as maple or oak, other than the linden (susceptible to beetles) and black gum (can be "finicky" and high maintenance for a commercial site). Concerns were raised that the revised plan we were looking at had not been thoroughly reviewed for inclusion of conditions imposed by Planning Commission and other recommending Borough bodies prior to the final plan's approval by Borough Council. These concerns will be forwarded to the Borough Manager.
9. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gail E. Anderson, Secretary*