



Borough of Doylestown Shade Tree Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 2026
6:30 P.M.

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The regular meeting of the Shade Tree Commission was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 6:30 PM at Doylestown Borough Hall, 10 Doyle Street. Commission members in attendance included Lisa Moscherosch, Jean Weston, and student member Jimmy Cuning. Also present was Grant Rowe, Sustainability Coordinator, and Bob McMullin, Borough Arborist.

Full Meeting Packet:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/v7j78ys9ryvx24d7y9kgu/ABk5foCMSY9c7dTYWqAxLnM?rlkey=pcdk12qybwm7mymms1zjm7qd0&dl=0>

Call to Order: Lisa Moscherosch called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Approval of Minutes: There were no comments on the August 2026 minutes.

Subdivision/Land Development: None

Tree Applications:

1. 235 Washington Street, Ruth Kozma, Property Owner
 - a. The homeowner was in attendance. The homeowner asked for advice on how to manage the tree (Bradford Pear) as it is getting very large for the area and becoming a nuisance. Borough Arborist, Bob McMullin, agreed that Bradford Pears can pose a nuisance when planted near driveways or homes due to fruit droppings. Following discussion, members of the Shade Tree Commission in attendance recommended approval. (WESTON/MOSCHEROSCH)
2. 315 North Street, American Legion, Property Owner
 - a. Albert Atkinson was present, representing the American Legion. Albert commented that he put in this permit due to tree decline. Borough Arborist, Bob McMullin, commented that he was in support of the permit/removal. Following discussion, the members of the Shade Tree Commission in attendance recommended approval. (MOSCHEROSCH/WESTON)
3. 13 Kershaw Avenue, David Bean, Property Owner
 - a. The homeowner was not in attendance. MOSCHEROSCH commented that the Maple is alone in the front yard and adds value. Borough Arborist, Bob McMullin, commented that the Maple is showing some decline but that pruning could address most issues. Following discussion, the members of the Shade Tree Commission in attendance recommended approval of the Sassafras trees in the backyard and denial of the Maple in the front yard. (MOSCHEROSCH/WESTON)
4. 46 Meadow Lane, Robert and Mary Paris, Property Owners
 - a. The homeowners were in attendance. Borough Arborist, Bob McMullin, commented that the tree is a Norway Spruce, that he visited the tree, and he supports the permit/removal. Following discussion, the members of the Shade Tree Commission in attendance recommended approval. (MOSCHEROSCH/WESTON)
5. 27 N. Franklin Street, Karl Bromm, Property Owner
 - a. The homeowner was in attendance. MOSCHEROSCH asked if the tree was on the property line and Sustainability Coordinator, Grant Rowe, added that he has already received a letter of support from the neighbor. Borough Arborist, Bob McMullin, commented that the tree is a

Norway Maple and, as such, is considered invasive. He also asked the homeowner if the tree was an open wound or cavity. The homeowner commented that the tree does have an open wound that has gotten worse and not healed over the span of years. Following discussion, the members of the Shade Tree Commission in attendance recommended approval. (WESTON/MOSCHEROSCH)

6. 128 Harvey Avenue, T. Peyton Brown, Property Owner

- a. The homeowner was in attendance. Borough Arborist, Bob McMullin, commented that he supported the removal and, following brief discussion, the members of the Shade Tree Commission in attendance recommended approval. (MOSCHEROSCH/WESTON)
- b. The homeowner asked about the street tree planting program and for replanting suggestions. Sustainability Coordinator, Grant Rowe, reviewed the street tree program and MOSCHEROSCH informed the resident that the Borough recently created a tree planting guide.

7. 43 Clemens Road, James Buchanan, Property Owner

- a. The homeowner was in attendance. MOSCHEROSCH commented that the Spruce on the permit may be a street tree. Sustainability Coordinator, Grant Rowe, pulled up the Borough's TreeKeeper program and confirmed that it is a street tree. He explained that the Borough typically removes and/or maintains street trees, but options for him (the resident) to remove it are possible. Borough Arborist, Bob McMullin, commented that, regardless of street tree status, if the Spruce is removed, it would be beneficial to plant something else. MOSCHEROSCH added that a tree could be planted in a nearby location to the Spruce. Rowe offered to meet with the resident and discuss options, including the possibility of street tree replanting within the right of way (ROW) or private (homeowner cost) replanting. The homeowner agreed to connect outside of this.
- b. The members of the Shade Tree Commission in attendance reviewed the second (non-street-tree) tree on the permit, a Maple. The homeowner commented that the tree is in decline and that storms have caused large branches to fall from the tree. The backyard neighbors to 43 Clemens Road, located at 46 Meadow Lane, were in attendance (see permit above) and commented that the tree is a nuisance. Borough Arborist, Bob McMullin, commented that the tree is a Silver Maple and that he does not have any issue with its removal. Following discussion, members of the Shade Tree Commission in attendance recommended approval. (WESTON/ MOSCHEROSCH)

Old/New Business:

1. Final Tree Educational Material

- a. Sustainability Coordinator, Grant Rowe, reviewed the final version of the tree guide, from photos to information and sources. He added that the guide will be posted to the website soon and that small edits can be made going forward. MOSCHEROSCH suggested sending an email or posting about it as well. Rowe agreed to look into this. Borough Arborist, Bob McMullin, commented that he plans to print copies of the guide.

2. Tree Pits

- a. Sustainability Coordinator, Grant Rowe, shared that, while he currently does not have any planned tree pit planting projects, it would be helpful to start conversations on tree pits. The goal is to gather information and begin to standardize tree pits (and pit options) within the Borough. This will allow them to be better prepared for when a tree pit may be needed in the future. Borough Arborist, Bob McMullin, commented that it can be helpful to have tree pits that can grow/get larger as trees grow. WESTON commented that what is under the sidewalk is also important for tree pits and recommended that the Shade Tree Commission look at the Center City District in Philadelphia for some ideas. The area tested some innovative tree pit options using structural soil in the past. It could be beneficial to see how they have held up over time. Finally, Borough Arborist, Bob McMullin, suggested that having perforated pipes in the ground when putting in tree pits can aid with fertilization. He also added that the Borough has done a good job in maintaining its trees while other areas have experienced issues with lots of premature tree deaths. Rowe agreed to investigate all of this information going forward (next meeting and beyond).

3. Street Trees

- a. Sustainability Coordinator, Grant Rowe, gave a recap of the street tree planting program from 2026, including timing and quantity considerations. The Borough ordered approximately 50 trees in 2026. Upon sending tree letters to residents, only a few responses/requests were

initially received. However, as neighbors heard about the program and/or saw their neighbors receive a tree, many more tree requests came in. Most of these requests were later in the planting season and hard to accommodate. For next year, Rowe suggested that the Shade Tree Commission consider both where to plant and/or how many trees to order. Importantly, the Borough already has a waiting list of residents who have expressed interest in a street tree for next year.

- b. Following this overview, the members of the Shade Tree Commission in attendance discussed two planting options, including 1) planting less total trees but targeting multiple locations across the Borough or 2) focusing on a sole area or a specific neighborhood as was done in the past. If a neighborhood is chosen, Sandy Ridge was discussed as a candidate. The Shade Tree Commission will review this in more detail at the October meeting.

4. Tree Giveaway

- a. Sustainability Coordinator, Grant Rowe, shared the order sheet for the joint Arbor Day/Earth Day planting giveaway that the Shade Tree Commission led earlier this year (2026). He asked for feedback from the Shade Tree Commission regarding the order. Following discussion, the members of the Shade Tree Commission in attendance recommended ordering the same trees and quantities.

Reports:

1. Chairperson Report

- a. Tree Tabulation Report Updates.
 - i. The members of the Shade Tree Commission reviewed a new layer added to the Borough's TreeKeeper software that shows trees approved or denied by the Shade Tree Commission. Sustainability Coordinator, Grant Rowe, highlighted the various features of the new layer, including tree location, status, condition, and a feature that allows tree removal permits to be uploaded. WESTON asked if the members of the Shade Tree Commission could download information (Excel sheets) from TreeKeeper. Rowe replied that the information is available and added that he is also willing to look into creating a generic login for members of the Shade Tree Commission to use. MOSCHEROSCH commented that the members used to have a login in the past. Rowe agreed to look into this. Borough Arborist, Bob McMullin, asked if there are other uses of this new tree layer, including insurance purposes. Rowe replied that he was unsure but offered to investigate.
- b. MOSCHEROSCH asked Sustainability Coordinator, Grant Rowe, about PECO pruning and updates on their work. Rowe shared some insight into the Borough communications with PECO and its communication options for residents, including email and phone numbers.

2. Arborist's Report

- a. Borough Arborist, Bob McMullin, commented that Bacterial Leaf Scorch (BLS) symptoms are usually visible by the end of August but, this year, it is not yet showing in many trees. Some suggest that this delay in symptoms could be environmental. It is extremely unlikely that BLS went away.
- b. BLS aside, Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) is heavily impacting many American Beeches, outside of the European Beech. Keystone has been treating some infected trees on an experimental basis.
- c. Finally, McMullin suggested that the Borough keep an eye on the Princeton Elm trees recently planted. He has treated them twice so far and they are seemingly adapting well to the replanting.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: There will be no further business before the Shade Tree Commission. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm (WESTON/MOSCHEROSCH)

Next Shade Tree Commission Meeting is Tuesday, October 13, 2026