EDGEWORTH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 26, 2026

MEETING was called to order at 5:30 p.m. with Commission Chairperson Greg Marlovits presiding and the following members of the Commission present: Mrs. Joyce Scalercio and Mrs. Annie Gensheimer, in addition to Borough Arborist Robert Kruljac and Borough Manager Ellen Politi.

Residents in Attendance: Mr. Richard Fruehauf – 301 Church Lane

The Commission began the meeting reviewing the minutes from the March 9, 2023 meeting. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Scalercio with a second from Mrs. Gensheimer to approve the Meeting Minutes from March 9, 2023. All members voted in favor of the motion.

The Commission then discussed the status of the Cherry Trees located on Church Lane. Mr. Kruljac provided a summary of the situation, stating that the trees had all been infected with a common disease known as Black Knot. Mr. Marlovits asked what caused the disease and Mr. Kruljac answered that it is caused by a fungus and that plum and cherry trees are especially susceptible to it. Mr. Kruljac stated there is nothing that can be done to save the trees, as spraying or injecting would not be effective. He suggested removing the 26 cherry trees on Church Lane and having them replanted with different species, stating he had already marked the worst trees, which came out to a total of seven.

Mrs. Politi stated that the Borough's policy is for the property owner to bear the cost of removing the trees, while the Borough would pay for stump grinding and subsequent replanting. Mr. Marlovits asked if it would be more cost effective to solicit quotes and remove all 26 trees at the same time and Mrs. Gensheimer agreed. Mrs. Politi stated she would reach out for quotes from tree removal companies.

Mr. Fruehauf stated that he is having his sidewalks replaced as part of the Borough's sidewalk replacement program and that he currently has two slabs filled with gravel that cannot be repoured until a cherry tree is removed. He stated he will have the tree removed but asked if his sidewalk would be filled by winter. Mrs. Politi stated the Borough would make sure it was repoured. Mr. Fruehauf also asked if once the trees were removed, they would be replaced with additional cherry trees. Mr. Kruljac stated he would not recommend replanting cherry trees, but would instead research more biodiverse options.

Mrs. Politi stated that the Commission would need to meet again to discuss a replanting plan for Church Lane and that she anticipated being able to replace half of the trees in Spring 2027 and half in Spring 2028. The Commission agreed to set up a meeting in October to discuss further.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 pm.