

July 7, 2023

Ms. Jesse Conte  
Upper Dublin Township  
370 Commerce Drive  
Fort Washington, PA 19034

Re: Upper Dublin Township  
Municipal Building  
Shade Tree Commission Review  
Project No. 23015

Dear Ms. Conte,

We are submitting the following response to the review letter from the Upper Dublin Township Shade Tree Commission, dated June 19, 2023 for the Upper Dublin Township Municipal Building project. These responses in **bold** are presented in the same order as the Shade Tree Commission review letter.

1. We understand that 2 commemorative trees we planted at the front of the existing building are scheduled for removal. These trees were planted by the STC to (a) honor the memory of John Pileggi, who contributed 100 trees to UD, and (b) represent the 2000<sup>th</sup> tree planted by the STC. We would like to have these trees relocated to a suitable location(s) on other UD land, with funds in the budget for this purpose. We will work with Derek and Colleen to identify the location(s). **Construction activities are to begin in spring 2024. The tree relocation should occur in fall 2023 to ensure the trees are not damaged during construction.**
2. We are concerned about the number of existing trees now along Loch Alsh Avenue that are shown for removal. We ask that every effort be made to save those trees. Perhaps the parking lot can be adjusted slightly to accommodate this. **Without removing parking spaces which are needed, the parking lot cannot be reconfigured or moved to preserve trees along Loch Alsh Avenue.**
3. Last September, the STC planted 3 maple trees along the Loch Alsh Avenue frontage to commemorate the tornado that devastated UD. The trees represented “past, present, future.” We would like to see those trees saved. **Please identify which trees are the commemorative trees.**
4. Regarding proposed new trees:
  - a. We recommend that the species in the parking lot areas be trees that tend to have spreading canopies, to promote shade in the parking areas. Specifically, we recommend *Ostrya virginiana* (American Hophornbeam) instead of Honey Locust for parking lot paved areas. Also, various oaks (except perhaps white oaks, which may be too stressed in open areas), and London Plane should be considered for these areas. **Six of the proposed Honey Locust have been changed to *Ostrya virginiana*. The other Honey Locust have been changed to American Lindens. Since**

**London Planes are not native and Sycamores are, they are proposed instead of the American Beech.**

- b. In general, we recommend diversity of trees among groupings instead of groupings of the same species, so that any disease or blight will not denude an area. **Groupings of plantings are kept to about 5 or 6 per species to avoid monoculture while providing uniformity.**
  - c. The present plan shows river birch trees proposed for an area close to the building's west side, near the Police Department entrance. We think these are inappropriate for this location. They will be too large and will shed debris. Instead, we recommend smaller ornamental trees there, such as flowering dogwood, sweet bay magnolia or serviceberry. **The River Birch has been changed to Eastern Redbud.**
5. The species we are recommending are among those we make available at our Adopt-a-tree Programs. As the STC continues this Program, it would be nice to be able to point out to people adopting the trees what the trees actually look like in the landscape. By planting at the new Township Building some of the species we give away, they can serve as examples to residents. **If other or additional native substitutions can be accommodated with additional guidance.**

Should you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact me at (484) 895-4632.

Sincerely,



Samantha L. Fenstermaker  
Civil Designer

cc: Kurt Ferguson, UDT Township Manager  
Jesse Conte, UDT Assistant to the Township Manger  
Kevin Godshall, GKO Architects  
Arif Fazil, D'Huy Engineering  
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