HARRIS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Public Hearing
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2026

Board Members in Attendance:	Dennis Hameister, Chair Frank Harden, Vice Chair Tracey Moriarty Chris Murrell
Staff in Attendance:	Mark Boeckel, Township Manager Debbie Lang, Administrative Secretary- via Zoom
Public in Attendance:	Joseph Merrill, State College Borough Chief of Police Duane Musser Dan McIntire Todd Horsley, CATA CEO Margy Boal, Harris Township CATA Representative Kimberlee MacMullan, COG Finance Director Rick Miller Roy Love
Public in Attendance via Zoom:	John Sepp, PennTerra Engineering

1) CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Hameister called the public hearing meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 388 – UPDATING SHADE TREE COMMISSION RELATED REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR SHADE TREES:

Mr. Boeckel said proposed ordinance no. 388 would amend Chapter 1, Article III, entitled "Commissions and Board" and Chapter 11, Article IV, entitled "Design and Improvement Standards" to establish rules and regulations for arbor work, allow for the adoption of an approved tree list, and update shade tree planting requirements in new developments.

The ordinance will allow the Board of Supervisors to adopt and amend, by resolution, rules and regulations for arbor work. The Shade Tree Commission previously prepared and approved rules and regulation for arbor work on public property, and this amendment will facilitate adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

The ordinance will also allow the Board of Supervisors to adopt and amend, by resolution, an approved tree list that applies to trees planted on public property. The previous list was included within the Subdivision and Land Development ordinance and could only be amended by adopting a new ordinance.

Requirements for shade trees in new developments, which are included within the Subdivision and Land Development ordinance, would also be amended by proposed ordinance no. 387. The proposed amendments would result in the following changes:

- The planting of shade trees would be required within the rights-of-way of new streets that meet specific criteria.
- Planting requirements would refer to the Townships adopted Rules and Regulations for Arbor Work.
- The approved tree species list will be removed from the ordinance, and a new list will be adopted by the Board of Supervisors by resolution. The new tree list was developed by regional shade tree committee, comprised of municipal arborists and representatives. The ordinance will reference this adopted resolution.
- The developer would be responsible for tree replacement within eighteen months of street dedication.

The Harris Township Planning Commission recommended adoption and the Centre Regional Planning Commission offered support of the proposed amendments to Chapter 11.

There were no comments from the public on this proposed ordinance.

Vice Chair Harden moved to close the public hearing. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. Chair Hameister closed the public hearing at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Boeckel, AICP
Township Secretary