

Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC)

Date May 18, 2020

Meeting Agenda

Time 5:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/94154557263?pwd=SXNyS09sT1dWTUYzQzNDUFRNUzFPQT09>

Meeting ID: 941 5455 7263

<https://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/administration/pages/how-participate-online-meetings>

<https://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/administration/pages/zoom-instructions>

Dial In: (814) 238-4651, extension 3799

Call to Order

April 28th Meeting Minutes (5 Minutes)

The FTTC shall review and approve the minutes from the April meeting.

Citizen's Input For Items Not On The Agenda (5 Minutes)

Any citizens in attendance are welcome to address the FTTC at this time.

Communications to Commission Members (5 Minutes)

This is an opportunity for FTTC members to report on any contact by residents regarding FTTC matters.

Tree Preservation Ordinance (15 Minutes)

The Arborist will provide and update on the status of the draft ordinance.

Official Township Plant List (15 Minutes)

The Arborist has updated the Official Township Plant List. The updated list has been given to the FTTC for review and edits. The FTTC shall view the latest draft and provide any further comments.

Tree Canopy Survey RFP (15 Minutes)

The Arborist will provide an update on the status of the RFP.

FTTC Podcast (10 Minutes)

The chairman has requested a discussion on podcast development. The FTTC shall discuss waiting to produce the podcast series until in person operations can resume, or to attempt to record the series using zoom. The chairman has requested a vote on this topic. Staff recommendation is to perform the podcasts in person at a later date.

Arborist report: (10 Minutes)

The Arborist will provide an update regarding current projects and delays due to COVID-19.

Future agenda items

Landscaping Best Practices Brochure for new and existing homeowners, tree preservation ordinance, tree canopy survey, outreach and education

Other

Next meeting date and time is June 15th at 5:30pm (Zoom Meeting)

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 27, 2020
5:30 PM**

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its public meeting on Monday, April 27, 2020 via ZOOM. In attendance were:

COMMISSION:

Scott Pflumm – Chair Person
Marc McDill – Vice Chair
Allyson Muth
Josh Potter
Mike Jacobson

STAFF:

Lance King, Arborist
David Modricker, Public Works Director
Jenna Wargo, Planning and Zoning
Summer Krape, Recording Secretary

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Scott Pflumm called the Monday, April 27, 2020 Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

III. FEBRUARY 18TH MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Scott Pflumm called for a motion to approve the February 18, 2020 meeting minutes. Mr. Pflumm made a motion to approve, Dr. Marc McDill seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. CITIZEN'S INPUT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Nothing was discussed.

V. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

Nothing was discussed.

VI. TREE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

Mr. Lance King stated that he and Ms. Jenna Wargo have been working on the ordinance together. The Township manager is reviewing/providing comments on their latest draft. Mr. King and Ms. Wargo will be meeting with him this week to discuss and resolve his comments. Once his comments are resolved they will bring the ordinance to the Tree Commission to review. Mr. McDill asked them to review the key provisions.

Mr. King stated that the current proposal requires developers to preserve 20% of the existing trees on site. Incentives for preserving additional trees are also proposed and could include reducing the required amount of onsite parking.

Another piece they are working on is Heritage trees. Heritage trees can be on land development parcels or existing single family home parcels. This will be a voluntary program. The owner of the tree will volunteer it as a Heritage tree and then the Township may accept it based off criteria, then the Township will take on the responsibility of that tree for the rest of its life including any pruning, or health care. The Commission discussed the provisions. Mr. Modricker suggested to carry this as an agenda item every month until it gets adopted.

VII. FTTC BYLAWS.

Mr. Modricker stated that there are two versions of the bylaws; one that was edited by Mr. Modricker, and the second that was edited by Mr. Pflumm. Mr. Modricker directed the Commission members to the second draft that Mr. Pflumm edited since all provisions of both versions are the same except the last section on expenditures which was added by Mr. Pflumm. Mr. Pflumm went over the section that he added regarding expenditures and the Commission discussed this addition. **Mr. Pflumm asked for a motion to adopt a version of the bylaws. Dr. Mike Jacobson made a motion to adopt the first version without the section on expenditures, Dr. McDill seconded the motion, and the motion passed 4 to 1.**

VIII. TREE CANOPY SURVEY RFP

Mr. Modricker stated staff prepared and solicited a tree canopy request for proposals. Staff received three proposals in response. Mr. Modricker, Mr. Lance King, and Mr. Progar (Township GIS technician), reviewed and ranked them as follows: 1. SavATree Consulting Group, 2. Plan-it Geo, 3. Davey Resource Group. SavATree Consulting Group was also the lowest bidder. The proposals were ranked based on 5 criteria. Mr. Modricker included SavATree's proposal in the Commission's agenda packet. Mr. Modricker stated that the Commission does not need to take a vote but they could recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they award the tree canopy survey to SavATree Consulting Group. **Dr. McDill made a motion to recommend that the Board of Supervisors award the tree canopy survey to SavATree Consulting Group, Dr. Jacobson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

IX. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King stated that he hasn't been out to look at trees as much lately due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He has been working remotely and did report to the office and then performed field work to remove some hazardous tree branches. Mr. King stated that he has been working on the tree preservation ordinance. He also revised the official Township plant list for land development plans. Mr. King stated that the tree planting contract for this year is on hold because the contractor was not allowed to work. The bare root tree order is delayed to the fall and the bare root trees will be planted in the fall. Dr. McDill asked that Mr. King share the plant list with him. Dr. McDill stated he would like to look at the list and provide suggestions.

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Discuss tree diseases and funding for testing

XI. FTTC 2020 GOALS

Mr. Pflumm summarized the list of 2020 goals. Dr. Jacobson noted that given the uncertainty of the times, it may be difficult to prioritize the goals. Mr. Pflumm asked for a motion to prioritize the 2020 goals. There was no motion, and the motion died. Mr. King stated that some goals have already been completed, some are in the works, and some probably won't be completed this year. The Commission discussed the Chairman's report to the Board of Supervisors.

Dr. McDill made a motion to present the report to the Board of Supervisors without the request for certain guidance as the Commission has not yet discussed that request, Dr. Jacobson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

XII. OTHER

Mr. Pflumm asked that the Tree Ordinance/Chapter 25 code of ordinances be posted on the Township's Tree Commission webpage.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The April 27, 2020 Tree Commission meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission