

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018
5:30 PM**

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its public meeting on Monday, April 16, 2018 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

COMMISSION:

Howard Fescemyer, Chairperson
Darlene Chivers, Vice-Chairperson
Jerry Learn
Marc McDill
Mike Jacobson, absent

STAFF:

Lance King, Arborist
David Modricker, Public Works Director

Others in attendance were: Marcella Bell, Recording Secretary; Ray Stolinas, Planning & Zoning Director

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fescemyer called the Monday, April 16, 2018 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 19 MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Chivers stated that under item number five, "A member of the FTTC" should be changed to "Ms. Chivers". Also under number five, fourth line down, change "She would like to see more trees planted in stormwater basins" to "She would like more trees to be used for stormwater management."

A motion was made by Mr. Learn and seconded by Ms. Chivers to approve the corrected March 19, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion carried 3-0. Mr. McDill abstained as he was not present at the March 19, 2018 meeting.

IV. SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT (SALDO) AND ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE—MR. RAY STOLINAS

Mr. Fescemyer introduced Mr. Stolinas and explained that Mr. Stolinas is present at the meeting to talk to the Commission and get its input regarding the Subdivision and Land Development (SALDO) and Zoning Ordinance update.

Mr. Stolinas gave a brief overview of the history of the SALDO and Zoning Ordinance update and where staff is at with the current draft. Township staff has been working with Environmental Planning & Design (EPD) for the past two years. The update was a directive from the previous Township Manager and was in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the Planning & Zoning staff to take on. At the same time staff put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the update, a steering committee was created with stakeholders from across the Township, including Mr. King. Staff is currently working

within the second draft of the SALDO and Zoning Ordinance. Ms. Carolyn Yagle, the consultant from EPD, has charged staff with collecting comments from various entities for both the SALDO and Zoning Ordinance by April 27, 2018 to consider for the next draft of ordinances. Mr. Stolinis stated that there will be a Joint Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission worksession On May 8, 2018, to discuss the SALDO and Zoning Ordinance updates thus far.

Mr. Stolinis added that the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (PA MPC) is the document that staff uses for subdivision, land development, zoning, the official map, and any other planning tools that the Township utilizes. Mr. Stolinis explained that within the zoning section of the MPC back in the early 2000s, the PA state law was amended to allow for certain uses in every zoning district—one of those uses was forestry. Forestry is defined by the PA MPC as “the management of forest and timberlands which when practiced in accordance with accepted Silva cultural principles through developing, cultivating, harvesting, transporting, and selling trees for commercial purposes which does not involve any land development.”

In response to a question from Ms. Chivers, Mr. Stolinis stated that he does not believe there are any regulations regarding the preservation of mature trees within the PA MPC. Mr. Stolinis went on to state that there is a section in the current ordinance (that is being carried over to the updated ordinance) under the Traditional Town Development (TTD) section that requires developers to retain 40% of the trees with a 6-inch caliper or more on the lot.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the requirement of planting trees in parking lots. Mr. McDill stated that he would like to see language that requires more trees to be planted in parking lots, however, there should also be language that requires the infrastructure of the parking lot to allow the tree to survive. He also stated that the trees in parking lots should cast shade instead of being columnar-shaped trees, which do not cast much shade. The Commission had a lengthy discussion regarding stormwater management and how trees can help mitigate runoff to reduce the amount of stormwater management systems that have to be installed within developments. Ms. Chivers stated that if the parking lot islands were designed so that water could flow into them instead of being curbed, it would help with stormwater management, there would be less runoff, and it would be good for the tree life. There was a brief discussion regarding the need for hardy vegetation in the parking islands to be able to tolerate the water runoff from the parking lot. Mr. Fescemyer stated that including green stormwater infrastructure language would be valuable to add to the SALDO and Zoning Ordinance. He provided staff with a few resources to research and consider.

Mr. Modricker spoke about the Stormwater Management Ordinance that was recently updated. The ordinance does not necessarily address how trees can mitigate stormwater issues, however, staff feels that the ordinance could eventually incorporate that kind of language.

Mr. King spoke to the parking lot requirements and landscaping requirements in the Zoning Ordinance. It currently states that there has to be a parking island for every 10 spaces. It also requires that the developer plant trees that will reach a height of 20 feet at maturity. Mr. King suggested that the Tree Commission focus on definitions, the kinds of trees they would like to see in parking lots, and possibly recommend requirements for tree plantings in parking lots. Mr. King added that the Tree Commission could also look at revising the Township's Official Plant list. Mr. King stated that the Zoning Ordinance also has its own list of trees and plants.

The Tree Commission came to a consensus to provide comments and recommendations to Mr. Stolinis regarding section 27-807 of the Zoning Ordinance before the end of the month.

V. 2018-C13 STREET TREE PLANTING

Mr. Modricker spoke to the process and requirements of the Township's Street Tree Planting project. He explained that last year, the Board of Supervisors awarded the Street Tree Planting contract to a contractor that used exceptions on the species and size of trees on their bid. This year, the contractor that would have won the contract because they were the lowest bidder did not win the contract because they used exceptions on their bid.

Mr. Modricker suggested that instead of having 35 different tree species in the contract, the Tree Commission could pick 10 different species for one year and then pick 10 different species for the next year's contract and so on and so forth. He explained that the Tree Planting contract could still have species diversity this way but also make it a little easier on the contractors to find the different species of trees. Mr. Modricker would like to continue this discussion with the Tree Commission at a future meeting.

Mr. King stated that he spent a day last week with the contractor staking out all the planting locations for the trees so the contractor can put in one-calls. The contractor will start planting the trees next week. Mr. King explained that he had a conversation with the contractor about the tree species and the contractor expressed that some of the trees on the list are hard to find because nurseries in this area won't grow them due to the hardiness for this region. The contractor had to travel to Virginia and Missouri to find specific species of trees in the Tree Planting contract. The contractor recommended that the Tree Commission consider sending the tree planting list to the regular Tree Planting contract bidders and ask them to each pick four or five tree species that they do not like. The Tree Commission will continue this discussion at a future meeting.

VI. ARBOR DAY 2018

Mr. King stated that the area for the tree planting has been cleared out and the tree planting will move forward for Arbor Day on April 28, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In response to a question from Mr. Fascemeyer, Mr. King stated that people can park at the Young Scholars School as well as the Goddard School. Mr. King stated that he does not have a porta-potty lined up, but it may be something to think about since young kids will be attending the event.

Mr. King stated that he will be going to Ferguson Elementary School to give a presentation to all of the kids who will be attending the event. He went on to say that two weeks ago, he and a representative from US Fish & Wildlife staked out the locations of where the trees will be planted. Mr. King is working with Webbs of Mill Hall to get fertilizer for the trees on Arbor Day.

Mr. King stated that he doesn't plan on doing a presentation, however, Peter Buckland, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, will be reading the Arbor Day Proclamation. the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) will also be present to give the Township its Tree City USA designation.

VII. STONEBRIDGE PLANTING CONTRACT

Mr. King stated that letters went out to the Stonebridge residents two weeks ago about the possibility of the Township planting trees in the Stonebridge neighborhood. The letter also informed residents that Mr. King would be at their next HOA meeting on May 9 to discuss this matter. As of today's date, Mr. King has received 12 out of about 200 letters from residents indicating that they would like trees to be planted in their neighborhood. The deadline for residents to respond to this letter is sometime in July.

VIII. ARBORIST REPORT

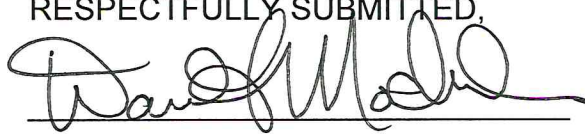
Mr. King stated that the Tree Commission has heard most of his report in other items of the meeting. Mr. King stated that he was in Phillipsburg Borough last week to meet with the Phillipsburg Borough Tree Commission, Borough Manager, and Zoning Officer to talk more about the Ferguson Township tree program.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mr. McDill stated that he read through the previous month's meeting minutes regarding the resident who cut down a Township tree. He stated that the Tree Commission should not let people off the hook too easy when this issue arises. Mrs. Chivers stated that when the Tree Commission discussed this issue, Mr. King explained that he's not sure he could have identified that the tree in question was actually a Township Street Tree. Mr. Learn added that he felt the resident was truly remorseful for cutting the tree down. The resident paid for the cost of a new tree (\$308.10) to be planted elsewhere, and he also offered to come to Arbor Day to help out with the plantings.

With no further business, the April 16, 2018 Tree Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Modricker", written over a horizontal line.

David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission