

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Monday, June 19, 2017
5:30 pm

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting on Monday, June 19, 2017 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

Commission: Howard Fescemyer, Vice Chairman	Staff: Lance King, Arborist
Darlene Chivers	David Modricker, Director of Public Works
Mike Jacobson	
Jerry Learn	

Others in attendance: Annie Doncsecz

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fescemyer called the Monday, June 19, 2017 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

III. APROVAL OF May 15th MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Chivers made a motion to approve the minutes with amendment from the May 15, 2017 meeting. Mr. Learn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. RESIDENT REQUESTED TREE REMOVAL

Annie Doncsecz attended the Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) meeting to request the removal of two crab apple trees along the front of her property on Cherry Ridge Road which are infected with apple scab. Mr. Fescemyer stated that along that road there are only four street trees including these two. Mr. King told the FTTC that crab apple trees do have a shorter life span than oak trees and are prone to disease such as apple scab. Ms. Doncsecz has tried to treat the trees for apple scab but it has not helped. Ms. Doncsecz would like to have the trees replaced with another species. Mr. Fescemyer said that he would like to see the trees replaced by the Township so the resident does not spend personal money to treat Township street trees. Mr. King said that the replacement trees would be added to the spring contract in 2018 and would send the approved tree listing to Ms. Doncsecz.

V. THE HEIGHTS TREE REMOVAL

Mr. King told the FTTC that Yonder Mountain Conservation on behalf of The Heights has requested the removal of a small shingle oak on Northwick Blvd. Mr. King said that the oak tree would be flagged this summer for removal and replanted in the spring. The Heights would like the tree removed sooner than fall. Mr. Learn raised concerns about the oak tree stump contracting oak wilt disease if removed during this time of the year. The FTTC were in agreement that since the tree is isolated and is going to be removed that there is little chance of contracting the disease.

VI. 2017 PRUNING CONTRACT

Mr. King showed the FTTC a GIS map that divided the Township into seven pruning blocks. The tree inventory was used to show tree locations. Mr. King showed the areas that need to be pruned and the areas that do not have Township trees. Mr. King indicated the need to or desire to ground truth the latest inventory. It was also mentioned that residents need to be aware of the distinction between trees in the right of way and private property trees close to the right of way. This year trees in Teaberry Ridge, Chestnut Ridge Manor and Sunday Drive are scheduled to be pruned. The blocks are based on number of trees and location. 750 trees are scheduled to be pruned this year. Mr. Modricker and the FTTC discussed the feasibility of Mr. King and an intern updating the tree inventory in lieu of contracting the work every 5 years.

VII. OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Ms. Chivers asked for deadlines for the upcoming e-newsletters. Mr. King wrote the article for the June newsletter. Ms. Chivers suggested two topics for future articles: mulch volcanos and the apprehension regarding the planting of oak trees due to oak wilt.

VIII. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King updated the FTTC on his activities inspecting newly planted trees in three subdivision phases. In the Hunter's Chase subdivision there are locations where the trees planted do not meet the approved planting plan. The species of trees are not necessarily an issue to Mr. King. Mr. Modricker will follow up on the best course of action.

The oak wilt treatment contract has been completed pending any new cases. Annie Döncsecz who attended the meeting to discuss her tree removal request told Mr. King during the meeting that another property near her's on Cherry Ridge Road may have a tree that is showing symptoms of oak wilt. Mr. King will contact the owner of the property and take samples to determine whether or not the tree has contracted oak wilt.

A contractor contacted Mr. King about a resident that would like to have dead wood removed from an oak tree. Mr. King conducted a site visit and is not willing to issue a tree permit to remove branches since oak trees are not permitted to be pruned during this time of year. Mr. King did not find the tree branches to be hazardous. The contractor has been made aware that if pruning does occur that there are fines that will be assessed.

Mr. King was involved with the Seedlings for Schools program at Wonderland Charter School a few weeks ago. Columbia Gas reached out to Mr. King to speak at this event to help educate students regarding the importance of caring for trees in the community. Barbra McDill asked Mr. King to speak at a Master Garden educational event in August but he had to decline due to a previous engagement. Mr. King is also working on the operating budget for 2018 as well as the listing of tree removals for this coming year.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ms. Chivers asked Mr. King about the width of the right of way on Sunday Drive and Nixon Road. There is a pin oak up on the bank that looks to have a lot of dead wood. Mr. King will look at the tree while reviewing the areas for tree removals.

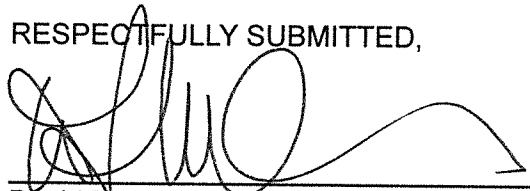
X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Chivers suggested that the FTTC discuss the Nuisance by Pest or Disease section of the street tree ordinance at the August meeting. Additional planting locations as well as removals will also be discussed at August's meeting. Some suggestions that have already been made are along bike paths, Cambridge Drive, West Park Hills Ave, Science Park Rd, Farmstead Ln/Homestead side, Greenleaf Manor, Bristol/Saratoga/Autumnwood Dr, North Cherry Hill, Whitehall Rd between College Ave and Fieldstone, and Deepwood Dr. Mr. Learn asked what the right of way situation is like between the farmers ag fields and Whitehall Rd. Mr. King said that Mr. Modricker would be best to answer any questions regarding planting trees in the right of way adjacent to agricultural fields.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the June 19, 2017 Tree Commission regular meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Modricker', written over a horizontal line.

David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission