

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Monday, March 20, 2017
5:30 pm

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting on Monday, March 20, 2017 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

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

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. McDill called the Monday, March 20, 2017 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:46 pm.

III. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 13 MEETING MINUTES

After a short discussion regarding the centennial oak located along side Farmstead Lane, Mr. Fescemyer made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2017 meeting. Mr. Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. 2017 PLANTING CONTRACT

Mr. King provided the Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) an update on the 2017 tree planting contract. The contract was awarded to Robert W. Behrer's LLC. Mr. King explained to the FTTC that the low bidder, Robert W. Behrer's LLC, could not obtain the larger size trees that Chestnut Ridge Manor would like to have planted. Chestnut Ridge HOA told Mr. King that they were willing to pay the difference between the entire contract price of the low bidder and second low bidder if the larger trees could be obtained and planted. The contract award recommendation was presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) by Mr. Modricker on Monday March 13, 2017. Kirk Behrer was in attendance. After much discussion, Board of Supervisors awarded the contract to the low bidder.

V. 2017 OAK WILT CONTRACT

Mr. King provided the FTTC an update to the 2017 oak wilt treatment contract. The contract was awarded to Bartlett's Tree Experts. There are 36 trees that will receive the oak wilt treatment along Devonshire Drive and Cherry Ridge Road. Mr. Modricker said that if another tree is discovered to have oak wilt, depending on the size of the affected area, the Township may be able to provide treatment under the scope of the existing contract.

VI. ARBOR DAY 2017

Mr. King told the FTTC that Arbor Day will be celebrated on April 29, 2017 from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. Diane Griffith has advertised Arbor Day on the Township's website and other organizations around Centre County also have the information posted. Mr. King has two trees (hackberry and sweet birch) to plant in the Snetsinger Butterfly Garden. The Penn State Master Gardeners will be there to help direct the public in invasive species removal. They will also educate the public on the role each species plays in the garden. Centre Region Parks and Recreation will provide the necessary tools and the Master Gardeners will provide a few tents. Mr. King asked the FTTC if they would provide some snacks and water for the volunteers. Mr. McDill said that some healthy snacks like granola bars or fruit and water would be a good idea. Mr. McDill also suggested to ask the local grocery stores if they would donate the food and water.

VII. OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Mr. King updated the FTTC on oak wilt outreach and education. He stated he compiled a listing of homeowners, businesses, utility companies, and neighboring municipalities and sent an oak wilt fact sheet and letter to everyone on the list. All of the feedback that Mr. King has received regarding the oak wilt awareness has been positive. Diane Griffith has approached Mr. King about the idea of having a quarterly newsletter just on trees. This newsletter would not be as large as the regular Township newsletter and may only be electronically available. Mr. McDill said that providing information regularly to the public will help raise awareness regarding trees. The FTTC gave some suggestions for different topics for this newsletter such as the oak wilt, emerald ash borer or the centennial oak.

VIII. FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE PLAN

Mr. McDill said that the tree plan should be sent around to the different tree commission members and have everyone make comments. Once that has been done, Mr. King will put the whole thing together and send out the tree plan with edits made for one more glance over.

IX. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King told the FTTC that three summer helpers have been hired to assist him with mowing, mulching and other tasks as needed. Mr. King told the FTTC that Centre Region Parks and Recreation has been pruning some trees in the parks across the region. Jim Savage has had his students out at Homestead Park providing trimming and pruning service. Mr. King attended the Pennel ISA conference in Manheim, PA. Other attendees were asking Mr. King about the oak wilt ordinance that Ferguson Township has adopted. Oak trees in the Pittsburgh area have been hit hard by the oak wilt disease. Mr. King will be working on the tree inventory with the new Township GIS technician. Mr. McDill asked if an intern could be hired to do the inventory but Mr. King stated that the funds for an intern are currently not in the budget. Mr. King has another pesticide class he will be attending on Thursday March 23, 2017 at Toftrees. Mr. King updated the FTTC about DCNR creating a trail head at the base of Pine Grove Mountain. DCNR representative Jake Mazei contacted Mr. King a few hours prior to the tree commission meeting to let the Township know of their plans to create a trail head at the end of West Chestnut Street. Mr. Modricker will be in communication with DCNR regarding this project and will update the tree commission accordingly.

X. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

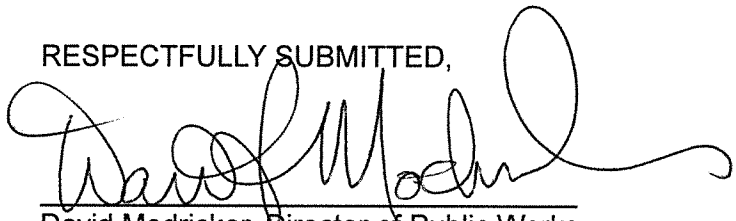
Mr. Fescemyer noticed that along Valley Vista Drive, near the intersection of Bachman Road and Valley Vista Drive, there are hemlock trees that are heavily infested with woolly adelgid. These

are private trees that are not in the Township right-of-way. Mr. Fescemyer would like to contact the homeowners to inform them of the condition of the trees and what could happen to the trees. The Township will be expanding the road along that section of Valley Vista Drive this year in conjunction with Patton Township for the addition of a turning lane. Mr. King stated that Aikey's Tree Service has been servicing the trees at the properties that have infested hemlocks. Mr. McDill emailed the FTTC about a possible meeting with Harris Township to discuss the tree issues that they have encountered. It has been suggested to have an informal meeting, perhaps at a local restaurant, to discuss tree concerns.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the March 20, 2017 Tree Commission regular meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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

David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission