

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Monday, May 15, 2017
5:30 pm

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting on Monday, May 15, 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
Jerry Learn	

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fescemyer called the Monday, May 15, 2017 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

III. APPROVAL OF APRIL 17 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Learn made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2017 meeting. Ms. Chivers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID CONTROL

Mr. King told the Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) that Mr. Lee Greci will not be in attendance for this tree commission meeting. Mr. King told the FTTC that Mr. Lee Greci has been treating the hemlocks on his own property for woolly adelgid. Mr. Greci's neighbor, who also has hemlocks on his property, has not been treating those trees. Mr. Greci feels that due to the lack of treatment by his neighbor the spread of the disease on his own trees is not getting any better and he has to spend more money to keep up the treatment of his trees. Mr. Greci was going to attend the meeting to ask Ferguson Township to enforcement the nuisance section of the tree ordinance and compel his neighbor to begin treatment. The neighbor has gone ahead and treated his hemlocks without Township intervention. As of this time the situation has resolved, however the FTTC should discuss the issue and how this type of issue might be handled in the future if the situation presents again. Mr. Modricker and Mr. King reviewed the ordinance for the FTTC regarding Nuisance by Disease or Pest (Chapter 25, Ordinance 991). Going forward if resident contacts Mr. King regarding a potential diseased tree(s), Mr. King will look at the affected tree(s) and report his finding to the FTTC. The FTTC will review Mr. King's findings and make a recommendation if treatment should be enforced. The arborist will then take the necessary steps to deal with the issue from that time forward. The FTTC would like to know how many hemlock trees are in the growth boundary in Ferguson Township. There is a concern that the woolly adelgid may spread like the emerald ash borer and many hemlocks will be lost if a large amount of hemlocks exists in the Township.

V. 2017 CONTRACT UPDATES

Mr. King gave the FTTC an update of the planting contract to be completed within the next week. Mr. Behrer is currently planting the trees along the Blue Course Drive median. Mr. Learn asked if all the trees were being planted at once or if it was in phases. Mr. King said that the majority would

be planted all at once but after reviewing the placement of the current planting there may be room to plant a few more in the coming years. Ms. Chivers commented that the trees that are being planted already look great in the median.

Mr. King will be in contact with Bartlett about commencing the oak wilt treatment.

The pruning contract will start to be complied over the next few months. Mr. King will go out and look at trees that need to be pruned this year.

VI. ARBOR DAY 2017

Mr. Fescemyer gave his review of the Arbor Day activities. He said that he was sore but felt very accomplished. Several of the Township employees and board members attended the day's activities. Mr. King said that the event was well attended. Mr. King showed the FTTC the new signs and banners that were given to the for Tree City USA. The new Tree City USA signs have already been placed near the "Welcome to Ferguson Township" signs that greet motorists as they enter the Township. Mr. King was interviewed by WTAJ for the Arbor Day event. Mr. King asked the FTTC for input regarding activities for future Arbor Day celebrations. Ms. Chivers would like to see it remain on a Saturday to make it more family friendly. Mr. King said that he did receive a few comments from Township staff and residents that they would like to see more activities for younger children.

VII. OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Mr. Fescemyer needs to check with Diana Griffith for deadlines for future e-newsletters for tree stories. One idea for a future story is the impact of trees on property value. Mr. Modricker suggested that Mr. Fescemyer contact Dr. William Elmendorf for input on the story. Ms. Chivers suggested a story about the importance of timing of street tree maintenance. Ms. Chivers volunteered to write the story for the June e-newsletter.

VIII. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King updated the FTTC on the effects that the May 1st severe storm had on Ferguson Township trees had on May 1, 2017. Eight street trees were totally lost, and multiple trees sustained damage. Ferguson Township did not sustain as much damage as other areas in the Centre Region. Mr. Learn questioned if any oak trees sustained damage that would be a cause for concern due to the concern about oak wilt disease. Mr. King said that he has not seen any oak trees that belong to the Township that give him any reason to suspect an issue. He does not inspect private property trees. Residents can contact him if they suspected a tree has contracted oak wilt due to storm damage.

Mr. King reported on his activities as the certification liaison for the Pennsylvania Delaware (PennDel) chapter of the ISA.

Mr. King inspected the trees from the 2016 tree-planting contract and there were only four trees that died. Those four trees have already been replaced in Chestnut Ridge Manor.

There is a meeting in June regarding the large oak at the Tudek farm house that Mr. King, Mr. Modricker and Mr. David Pribulka (Township Manager) will be attending with Centre Region Parks and Recreation.

Mr. King has also been working on items for the Capital Improvement Budget that include a resistograph and a new bucket truck.

Mr. King said that Chestnut Ridge Manor HOA has contacted him regarding the damage to trees in Chestnut Ridge Manor due to the severe storm and wanted to know if those trees could be replaced this year. The replacement trees will be planned for next year. The trees in question for Chestnut Ridge Manor HOA are the hybrid maples that were damaged.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

No communications to commission members.

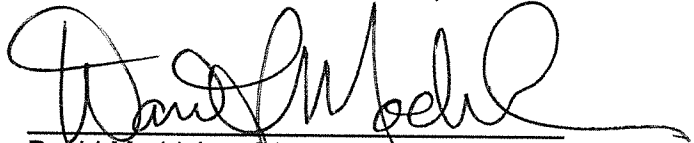
X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. King told the FTTC that there are some funds in the budget for new planting opportunities. Ms. Chivers said it would be a good idea to look for new planting areas on the July 2017 Township Tree Commission drive around.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the May 15, 2017 Tree Commission regular meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Modricker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission