

## **FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting

Monday, November 13, 2017

5:30 pm

### **I. ATTENDANCE**

The Tree Commission held its public meeting on Monday, November 13, 2017 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

**Commission:** Howard Fescemyer, Vice Chairman  
Mike Jacobson  
Jerry Learn  
Darlene Chivers

**Staff:** Lance King, Arborist  
David Modricker, Director of Public Works

Others in attendance: Aimee Sloane

### **II. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Fescemyer called the Monday, November 13, 2017 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

### **III. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Jacobson made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Chivers seconded the motion.

### **IV. 2018 FTTC Meeting Schedule**

Mr. King reviewed the schedule for the 2018 Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) meeting dates with the members. The first correction to the list is the November meeting will be moved to the second Monday instead of the third Monday of the month to avoid conflicts with Thanksgiving. In February, the meeting will be moved to the second Monday since the third Monday falls on President's Day and the Township offices will be closed. Also there will not be a meeting in December in keeping with past tradition. Mr. Fescemyer asked Mr. Modricker if he is alright with having the FTTC meetings the same night as the Board of Supervisors (BOS) meetings. Mr. Modricker said he has no problem with the FTTC meetings being the same nights as the BOS meetings.

Aimee Sloane, a Patton Township resident, asked at this time for a brief explanation of the role of the FTTC and how it handles matters in Ferguson Township regarding trees. Mr. Modricker led the discussion and provided an overview of function of the FTTC.

### **V. 2018 NEW TREE PLANTINGS**

Mr. King provided an update to the FTTC of the tree plantings for 2018. He would like to see the amount of tree plantings stay the same for budgeting reasons. There are about 70 new trees that he would like to see planted and asked the FTTC for recommendations on the locations for the new trees. He asked if they would like to try to find one large area to plant the trees or put a few trees in various places in the Township. Mr. Modricker told the FTTC to keep in mind that there

are some limitations to planting areas due to placement of certain services (water, sewer, fire hydrants, etc). Mr. Fescemyer thought that Science Park Road was a good location but realized that there are a lot utilities located along the road. Park Hills Avenue West would be a good location for planting as well as the Stonebridge development, Chestnut Ridge and Pine Hall Road. Mr. Modricker suggested considering corridors (main streets) in the Township first then residential developments for the tree plantings. Mr. Fescemyer suggested to also to look at properties owned by the Township.

## **VI. NUISANCE SECTION OF TREE ORDINANCE**

Ms. Chivers asked about the use of the ISA disclaimer in the nuisance ordinance. Centre Region Council of Government (CRCOG) is revising the building maintenance code and language regarding private property hazard trees that affect other private property has been presented to the BOS. Mr. Fescemyer wanted to discuss the difference between terms “hazardous” and “nuisance”. Mr. King said that most of the discussion started with the question of the seriousness of woolly adelgid, and where the line is drawn for enforcement of the ordinance for each type of disease. Each disease needs to be evaluated on an individual basis to determine the severity. Ms. Sloane asked if the Township would have treated the ash trees sooner if the severity of the disease had been known. Mr. Modricker stated that the cost of treating the ash trees or removing the ash trees on private property would have been significant. Mr. King uses the TRAQ system to determine the risk/health of a tree. The FTTC suggested no changes for the ordinance.

## **VII. ARBORIST REPORT**

Mr. King told the FTTC that the tree planting behind the Waffle Shop has become more of a project encompassing multiple agencies such as Wildlife for Everyone Foundation and Clearwater Conservancy. The Fish and Wildlife services has suggested that they would like to come in to do some mowing, planting seedlings, a pollinator plot, etc. Mr. King told the agencies to come up with a plan to move forward on all the projects and get back to him. He is hoping that all of this will line up with Arbor Day in 2018.

The pruning contract was awarded last Monday and Cutting Edge Tree Professionals was the low bid at \$26,250. Pruning will commence at the end of November.

Mr. King had a meeting recently with the manager and grower at Wheatfield Nursery to tour the nursery. The nursery may be interested in stocking trees on the approved Township street tree planting list. Mr. King took a copy of the approved street tree species listing to the nursery to help give them an idea of what is allowed in the Township.

Ash trees will be treated in 2018 in keeping with the schedule of every other year. There are not as many ash trees as in the past as the Township has lost a few more since the last treatment. Mr. Fescemyer asked if the cost of the treatment of the ash trees is worth it. Mr. King stated that there is an agreement for 10 years to treat the ash trees. After 10 years it will be reevaluated. Cobble Creek Manor has expressed enjoyment of having the ash trees in their community. The concerned homeowner associations share the cost of treatment with the Township.

Mr. King said that in 2018 the oak wilt contract can be renewed instead of going through the bid process again, as long as Bartlett Tree Service agrees to the same pricing as 2017.

Letters went out a few weeks ago for the “Meet the Arborist” event to be held on January 17, 2018. Continuing education credits will be offered, along with coffee and donuts. The FTTC

members are interested in attending the meeting and also gave Mr. King the names of some individuals/companies to invite.

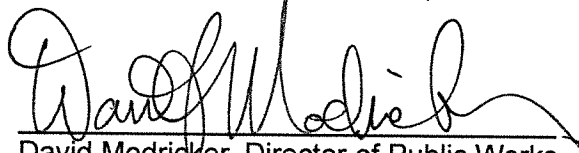
Mr. King updated the FTTC on the Dunkin Donuts revised plan. On the original landscaping plans, a row of oaks was omitted that are currently located on the property. Due to this oversight, the developer now must post surety for the changes to the landscaping plans. The trees are going to be kept and the landscaping needs a minor alteration plan submitted to the Township. The landscaping will not be installed until the Spring of 2018.

**VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the November 13, 2017 Tree Commission regular meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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

David Modrick, Director of Public Works  
For the Tree Commission