

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2018
5:30 PM**

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its public meeting on Monday, August 20, 2018 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

COMMISSION:

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

STAFF:

Lance King, Arborist
David Modricker, Public Works Director

Others in attendance were: Marcella Bell, Recording Secretary;

II. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Fescemyer called the Monday, August 20, 2018 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

III. JUNE 18, 2018 AND JULY 23, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Learn stated that in both the June 18 and July 23 meeting minutes, precedence should be changed to precedent. Dr. Fescemyer provided corrections to the spelling of his last name for both sets of minutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Chivers and seconded by Dr. McDill to approve the corrected June 18, 2018 and July 23, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. FTTC-BOS JOINT WORKSESSION

Included in the agenda packet is a draft agenda for the Joint Board of Supervisors and Tree Commission Work Session.

Dr. Fescemyer reviewed the draft agenda, which included the following items: Tree Preservation Ordinance Introduction by Dr. Fescemyer, Tree Preservation Ordinance Regulations and Examples by Dr. Elmendorf, and Tree Canopy Survey by Dr. McDill.

Mr. Modricker explained that he asked the Board for this joint meeting because he didn't want the Tree Commission to waste its time by creating an ordinance if the Board was not in favor of it. He went on to say that staff met with Dr. Elmendorf a while back to discuss a tree preservation ordinance. Dr. Elmendorf will attend the joint work session to discuss examples of tree preservation ordinances and the legality behind this type of ordinance.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding green infrastructure. The Tree Commission would like to have a discussion with the Board of Supervisors regarding how to achieve Sustainable Community goals through green infrastructure. Dr. McDill stated that increasing the tree canopy can do a lot to meet several Sustainable Community goals. Dr. McDill would like to give a presentation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the benefits of growing the Township's tree canopy and ways to do so. He stated that assuming the Board is interested in integrating concepts of green infrastructure in the way the Township plans, the next step would be to meet with the Planning Commission.

Ms. Chivers stated that overall, the point of the work session is to ask the Board of Supervisors to make a commitment to trees in the Township and to think about trees as solutions to many problems. Ferguson Township is committed to improving livability, and planting and preserving as many trees as possible can add to that. She went on to say that it's a simple statement that is ambitious and has an outcome.

There was a general consensus from the Tree Commission to add "Increasing Livability and Greening the Urban Landscape" as an agenda item to the joint work session. Ms. Chivers and Dr. McDill will provide comments on behalf of the Tree Commission regarding the value trees and vegetation can play in improving water quality goals, wildlife habitat, air quality and temperature (including planting tree lined connected non-motorized transportation corridors), and planting "no-mow" vegetation and trees in storm water basins.

V. ROOT/SIDEWALK/DRIVEWAY CONFLICTS

Mr. King stated that the FTTC has had the opportunity to field view a few sites with these issues. The FTTC should provide a recommendation to staff regarding handling future conflicts between street tree roots, sidewalks, and driveways.

Mr. Learn stated that the narrative provided by the resident painted a much worse picture than it actually is. He stated that his recommendation is that the Tree Commission does nothing.

Ms. Chivers stated that if the Township wants residents to like street trees, then it might be reasonable for the Township to help with the cost of replacing the sidewalk/driveway. Dr. McDill stated that when the issue of a tree damaging a sidewalk to driveway is raised by a resident, the Township should visit the site to determine if there is anything to be done about the tree in question, whether it be root barriers or trimming roots; however, the Township should not pay the cost to replace sidewalks or driveways.

Mr. King explained that the Township does visit the site of the tree in question; however, a lot of people do not call when there is an issue.

After a brief discussion, there was a general consensus from the Tree Commission for Mr. King to continue to work with residents who have these conflicts to mitigate the issues when they arise.

VI. PLANTING OPPORTUNITY ISSUES

Mr. King explained that he has continued to work on the tree planting project in the Stonebridge neighborhood for 2019. Several conflicts have come up regarding underground utilities. The FTTC should make recommendations for this project and similar projects in the future.

Mr. King stated that Stonebridge has been a good model for moving forward with these types of planning projects. The next step for this project is to put in a design one call to mark where the utilities are for the locations of the tree plantings. However, the issue is that when a design one call is placed, utility providers are not required by law to mark their lines. The only time a utility provider is required to mark their lines is when an excavation is planned for that location, which can only be made 10 days or less of when the work is taking place. The Township's policy is to not plant trees on top of utility lines. Mr. King stated that he laid out the planting locations, however, he won't know if there is a utility line in that location until 10 days before the plantings occur. Therefore, Mr. King could end up with trees and no place to plant them.

After a brief discussion, the Tree Commission agreed to continue this discussion at the October meeting with Mr. Modricker.

VII. 2019 STREET TREE PLANTING

Mr. King provided maps showing the approved tree removals for 2018 and the proposed replacement species. He asked the Tree Commission to approve the replacement species before letters are sent to the affected property owners.

In response to a question from Dr. Jacobson, Mr. King explained that he selected the hornbeam species because the Township is cutting down on the amount of species it plants in each contract and the trees on Martin Street have not done very well and that street is in need of some columnar trees. There was a brief discussion on the tree species to plant instead of the hornbeam species. There was a general consensus from the Tree Commission to not plant any hornbeam trees and replace them with tree lilacs on Martin Street and a mix of ginkgo and oak trees on Old Gatesburg Road.

The Tree Commission then had a brief discussion on future planting opportunities like Deepwood Drive or Bristol Avenue.

VIII. OAK WILT UPDATE

Mr. King provided the Tree Commission with an update on the Township's Oak Wilt program. He explained that a case of Oak Wilt has been confirmed for a parcel off of Beaver Branch Road in the Rural Residential District. There are 43 trees

listed for treatment and 1 tree for removal. The total estimate for the cost of work is \$13,500.00. The diameter of the tree being removed is at least 30 inches and has to be chipped and/or buried. The wood cannot be used for firewood or lumber. The chippings will go to UAJA to be mixed in with compost product which kills the fungi.

IX. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King state that while inspecting trees in parks, he found a few trees that need to be removed or pruned. He attended an ISA conference in Columbus, Ohio the week prior. Mr. King has been in contact with the property manager of the Heights and the landscaper of the property to discuss the removal of excess mulch on trees.

There was a brief discussion regarding cancellation of the regular meeting of the Tree Commission in September due to the joint work session with the Board of Supervisors on September 11. There was a consensus from the Tree Commission to cancel the regular September Tree Commission meeting.

Dr. Fescemyer asked Mr. King if the Pine Hall developer responded to the Tree Commission's comments on the Pine Hall Master Plan. Mr. King will contact the developer and get back to the Tree Commission on this matter.

X. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

There was none.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the August 20 18, 2018 Tree Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission