

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, September 18, 2017

5:30 pm

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting on Monday, September 18, 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

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fescemyer called the Monday, September 18, 2017 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

III. APROVAL OF JUNE 19th and JULY 17th MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Learn made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 19th and July 17th meeting minutes. Mr. Fescemyer seconded the motion.

IV. U.N. PLANT FOR The PLANET PROPOSAL

Mr. Modricker introduced Meghan Hoskins to the Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC). Ms. Hoskins explained that she is working with students from Ferguson Elementary and Penn State University to form a group locally that would do work in line with a recent U.N. resolution to help fight climate change. The group is seeking an area locally to plant trees. The planting would be done by Ferguson Township Elementary students and would be approximately 400 trees, one for each student. Mr. Modricker stated that he felt that a good location would be an area that the Township is trying to reforest. He also stated a concern about the use of seedlings as that there is a high mortality rate for seedlings. Mr. King stated that the area behind the Waffle Shop along Blue Course Drive would be an ideal location. Mr. Fescemyer gave a few other ideas for planting locations in the Township, primarily along Science Park Road near the intersection of Valley Vista Drive and along West College Avenue. Mr. Modricker said that there might be a few reasons why trees are not planted at those locations but would need to research further. The Waffle Shop location would be easier for the Township to maintain since the land is owned by the Township. Mr. Jacobson asked if there are any buffers that need tree plantings, Mr. King said that currently there are not. Mr. Fescemyer suggested that this project be coordinated with Arbor Day in the future. There is a concern for parking at the proposed location and it was suggested that the group contact the Young Scholars/Goddard Schools for parking possibilities. Mr. Modricker said that he would update the Board of Supervisors as the project goes forward.

V. FERGUSON TOWNSHIP ABC EMAIL POLICY

Mr. Modricker distributed a copy of the Township's Email policy to the FTTC members. Mr. Modricker highlighted the main points of the policy. The biggest issue is having Township email forwarded to a person's personal email. Under the email policy this is not allowed. The FTTC

members signed a memorandum of understanding and returned it to Mr. Modricker. A copy will be forwarded to Mr. McDill due to his absence.

VI. TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT PROPOSALS

Mr. King reviewed the list of tree removals and replacements for the 2017/2018 year with the FTTC members. Mr. Learn asked Mr. King how he choose the species for replacement. Mr. King stated that the size of the planting location and what other species were in close proximity where used in determining what species would fit best. Resident requests are also taken into consideration. Pending any notification by a resident to request another species of tree in the interim, the list provided by Mr. King will go to the public hearing in October.

VII. HAYMARKET PARK DRAINAGE CHANNEL PLANTING

Mr. Modricker gave the FTTC a brief explanation of the channel along Blue Course Drive and Bristol Avenue at Haymarket Park. The channel needed to be stabilized and large rocks were installed a few months ago. Mr. Steve Miller asked the Township to consider planting a buffer along the rock culvert. Mr. Modricker explained that up-stream development caused there to be a need for a culvert. There is a bridge at this location from an Eagle Scout project. Mr. King showed the FTTC a sketch for where he would suggest planting trees along the bike paths and the head wall area. The FTTC gave ideas as to the species of trees to be planted at this location. Mr. King told the FTTC that he would like to see trees planted along the entire edge of the storm water basin at Haymarket Park. He has plans to meet with DCNR to see if there is any grant money that he could acquire to help plant at the park. Mr. Modricker also suggested a test project at the location for wetland vegetation or wild flowers.

VIII. MULCH VOLCANOS

Mr. King showed the FTTC that the fall newsletter showcased an article regarding mulch volcanos. Ms. Chivers said that she has to do maintenance around her trees after her landscape company does her mulching and asked if there was a way to reach out to these companies so they stop creating mulch volcanos. Mr. King said that he has put out a few door hangers to address this issue. Mr. King is open to any further suggestions.

IX. NUISANCE SECTION OF TREE ORDINANCE

Mr. King told the FTTC that they are welcome to review the ordinance outside the meeting and bring topics for discussion to a future meeting. The issue with the ordinance is that the intent of the ordinance was to help keep certain types of tree diseases from spreading, but the application of the ordinance can be applied for a lesser disease. Ms. Chivers suggested using Tree Board University (an on line training tool) as a reference. Mr. King said that he would put this on the agenda for November's FTTC meeting.

X. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King updated the FTTC on the status of the latest suspected case of oak wilt in the Township. The oak tree was tested for oak wilt and the sample came back negative. Mr. King took a second sample and that sample came back negative. The tree in appearance looks more stabilized as of now. Dr. Bruce Frederick from the Bartlett Lab said that the treatment itself may have caused the tree to exhibit the symptoms of the oak wilt, as 1 in 100 trees do show a negative reaction to the treatment especially if the tree has been previously stressed.

Mr. King told the FTTC that he has reviewed two land development plans, The Landings and Science Park Plaza. Mr. Learn gave his recommendations for what species of trees should be planted at the Science Park Plaza development.

Mr. King attended the ISA Conference in Washington D.C. and attended a two day conference in Delaware to take the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification course.

Mr. King has been working with the Township's GIS technician, Kristina Aneckstein to update the tree inventory using the GPS Unit.

The pruning contract will be put together in the next few days and the GPS unit will play a large role in getting the information more quickly.

Mr. King updated the FTTC regarding the missing tree on Barnstable Ln. During the FTTC drive around in July, a new driveway was installed too close to an existing tree on Barnstable Lane. A few days after the drive around, Mr. King returned to the location to make contact with the homeowners and discovered the tree was missing/removed. The original driveway permit that was submitted and approved showed the driveway was at least 10 feet away from the tree. Sometime after the driveway was installed, the homeowner decided to widen the driveway without permission of the Township. The tree was subsequently removed by the homeowner's landscaper. A citation in the amount of \$1343 was issued for unlawful tree removal. A hearing is scheduled since the homeowner plead not guilty.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

No communications.

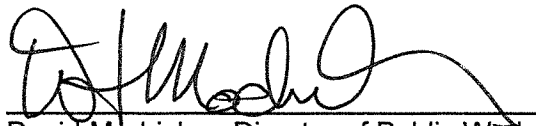
XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Learn asked Mr. King about the use of Township funds to treat private trees. His concern is if the residents of the Township voice their concerns does the FTTC have answers prepared to explain why the Township uses Township funds to treat private trees. Mr. King will also update the FTTC on budget information for the 2018 year.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the September 18, 2017 Tree Commission regular meeting was adjourned at 7:33 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