

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Monday, June 20, 2016
5:30 pm

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting on Monday, June 20, 2016 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

Commission: Marc McDill, Chairman	Staff: Lance King, Arborist
Mike Jacobson, Vice Chairman	Dave Modricker, Director of Public Works
Darlene Chivers	
Troy Bayletts	

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. McDill called the Monday, June 20, 2016 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:37 pm.

III. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 18, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Chivers made a motion to APPROVE minutes from April 18, 2016. Mr. Jacobson seconded the motion.

IV. WELCOME HOWARD FESCEMYER- Tabled

V. 2016-C13 STREET TREE PLANTING UPDATE

Mr. King reported that since the last meeting Kirk Behrer has finished planting the trees from the contract 2016-C13. Chestnut Ridge Manor representatives are very pleased with the trees. Derry Michael in the HOA was very persistent in wanting a tree to replace a tree that was removed two years ago. Mr. King stated he found a black gum cultivar called Wildfire at Martin's Nursery in Tyrone. Mr. King purchased and planted the tree. One extra tree was planted but three additional trees are still needed in Chestnut Ridge Manor. Ms. Chivers asked whose responsibility it is to keep these trees watered. Mr. King said the contractor is responsible for the warranty of the tree so it would be in his best interest to keep up the maintenance. Mr. Modricker said it does depend on the contract as well. The Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) discussed how this spring season seems unusually green. Mr. King and Mr. Modricker addressed that this year mowing concerns in the Township have increased greatly. McDill asked if Scott Fozard's tree issue has been resolved. Mr. King told the FTTC that the trees have been planted. Ms. Chivers asked how many trees were planted in the 2016-C13 contract. Mr. King said approximately 117 trees were planted, plus an additional one that he planted. Mr. King said that there is money budgeted for the Thistlewood HOA planting pending obtaining easements. These easements have not been prepared nor signed yet. Mr. Modricker said that this matter is currently in the hands of the Township Solicitor Mr. Green.

VI. 2016-C14 STREET TREE PRUNING

Mr. King reviewed the pruning list in the agenda with the FTTC. He stated his goal going forward

is to have pruning blocks. He tried to divide the number of trees equally and walked those streets to get a listing of trees that need to be pruned. Mr. Modricker asked how many pruning blocks there would be and how long between prunings per block. Mr. King stated that he would like it to be every 5 years, but maybe eight to ten years realistically. Ms. Chivers asked why Mr. King selected this area. Mr. King said that he reviewed old contracts and also noticed the condition of the trees on these streets while he was out in the township. He stated that he arrived at the estimates by taking last year's contract, and then took the two middle numbers, and threw out the high number by Davey and the low number by Cutting Edge. Mr. Modricker stated that there is \$25000 in the budget for this project. Mr. King stated that there are approximately 470 trees in this contract. Mr. King stated that after pruning blocks he will help update the township's inventory of the street trees. Mr. McDill asked if the budget could be greater to increase the amount of trees done at one time. He stated he would like the budget to be at least 50% more, bringing it to around \$37000-\$40000. Mr. Modricker asked if there is a value to doing a tree inventory. Mr. King stated that once the inventory is completed it will only need to be maintained. Mr. McDill suggested that an intern should be used to help maintain the inventory of trees, and the use of a GPS tablet could be also beneficial. Mr. Modricker said the township is going to be using new GPS software. Mr. McDill suggested the use of an application called Bad Elf to help mark where trees are located using GPS.

VII. 2016 TREE REMOVALS

Mr. King showed the FTTC a first draft of the removal list for 2016. He stated he drove the township and this list has the trees he wants the FTTC to see at our next meeting. He said that removals include a few ash trees, as well as a few young trees that haven't made it. Japanese Zelkovas in Hillside Farms for some unknown reason are dying. Mr. King said he took samples from about 8 trees and gave them to Penn State University testing. They could not determine any cause but Julianne Scheiffer suggested phytophthora. Mr. Modricker said that Al Sam thought it might be verticillium wilt. Mr. King said there could be many reasons that may exist in the ground. Sarah May tested the samples for Dutch Elm Disease as well. Mr. McDill asked if the planting of Zelkovas should be avoided in the future, until a cause can be found. Mr. King said he agrees that Zelkovas should not be planted for the time being. The next step may be to have some soil testing done on the affected areas. Mr. King asked if the FTTC is interested in visiting each of the trees on the list on the tour next month. Mr. McDill said that ash trees and trees that did not make it should not be up for discussion. Mr. Modricker stated in one area that has a few trees affected the township has money from Lawnscape LTD for trees that did not survive in the warranty period from the 2014 planting contract. Mr. King stated that the residents affected by these trees could be given notice so they could have input on what type of tree is selected for a replacement. Mr. McDill voiced his concern that this might give incentive for residents who may not like the tree existing on their property to harm their tree to obtain a new one. Mr. King said he will review the listing and find areas that need to be given precedence. Mr. Modricker asked Mr. King if any of the trees on the listing could not be handled by our road crew for removal. Mr. King stated that he feels that the road crew can handle all the removals with his guidance. Mr. Jacobson asked if looking at the area at Piney Ridge would be beneficial during the tour of the township. The FTTC agreed that reviewing the trees in the park does not need to take place.

VIII. BLUE COURSE DRIVE TREE PLANTING

Mr. King stated he got the results back from the soil testing on Blue Course Dr. He said that he is still hoping to have the money in the budget for next year and asked the FTTC for suggestions to the species of tree to be planted in the median. All of this is subject to change if the additional

samples come back with different results. Ms. Chivers asked what species of tree have not done well in that area. Mr. King said that Ginko is not doing well and Burr Oaks are doing alright. Both Mr. King and Mr. McDill suggested to stop mowing near the trees to avoid additional damage. Mr. King said that the type of tree to be planted there must not provide too much shade to the road to avoid the road becoming a sheet of ice in the winter months. Mr. Jacobson suggested willow and Mr. McDill suggested oak. Mr. Bayletts said to avoid Pin Oaks Ms. Chivers suggested Beech but Mr. McDill said that Beech has issues with Beech Bark Disease. Mr. McDill will generate a list of suggestions that will meet the criteria for planting on Blue Course Drive.

IX. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King stated he has been very busy with grass/mowing this summer so far. Mr. Modricker wants all landscapers that do work in the township ROW under street trees to apply for a Tree Permit. This is to help fix problems caused by landscapers, for example mulch volcanos or damaged trees. A few companies have complied such as Moon Brothers and Scott's Landscaping. This will be required every year for each company. The ordinance reads that anyone doing work under the drip line of a tree needs to have a permit. Mr. King had a handful of stumps that need to be removed that were missed in the past. Cutting Edge was contracted and ground them out last month. Mr. McDill asked if those trees would be replaced and Mr. King said that most would be replaced but a few would not due to the location and proximity to intersections. Mr. King has been working with the road superintendent, Steve McDonald, on the 2017 capital budget for equipment purchases, including a chipper, dump truck, pickup truck, and a new mower. He said that he has requested funding in the capital budget over the next five years for an air-spade and resistograph. Mr. King mentioned a recent subdivision by S&A. The developer made all the changes that the FTTC suggested. Mr. McDill stated that the project at Weis also made good use of the tree selection. Mr. King said that he is now in the middle of a controversy between the Greenleaf Manor residents and the student housing at Turnberry off of Circleville Road. The tree line that separates the two areas is not being mowed. The plan that was approved by the township shows the area as a wildflower area. The residents of Greenleaf Manor believe that the area does not meet the regulations of the township's weed and grass ordinance. Mr. King is to meet with the residents of Greenleaf Manor to discuss this issue. Also there were ash trees that needed to be removed along Meadowview Drive. Mr. King said that he will be sending out another hazardous tree letter to address an issue on East Chestnut Street. Mr. King also asked the FTTC for feedback on Arbor Day. He said that the students that participated had a good time and Centre Region Parks and Recreation said it went well. Ms. Chivers said that she felt that the rotating stations were a great idea. The master gardeners said that they think the kids really enjoyed the time at their area. Ms. Chivers expressed a concern that the trees the children got to plant were such large trees.

X. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

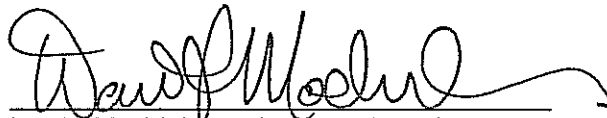
XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the June 20, 2016 Tree Commission regular meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Ferguson Township Tree Commission
Monday, June 20, 2016

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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

David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission