

Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC)

Date July 18, 2016

Meeting Notes

Time 5:00 pm

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting on Monday, July 18, 2016 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

Commission: Marc McDill, Chairman **Staff:** Lance King, Arborist
Mike Jacobson, Vice Chairman
Darlene Chivers
Troy Bayletts
Howard Fescemyer

2. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting began around 5:00 pm, Monday July 18, 2016.

After a brief introduction of the new member Howard Fescemyer, the group departed to visit the following proposed tree removal and planting locations and affected oak wilt trees:

Pine Grove Mills (Sheldon Dr, Lois Ln & Deepwood Dr) – On route to Pine Grove Mills, the Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) members were inquiring about the proposed sale of land along West College Ave, known as Harner Farms. Upon arriving on Lois Lane, Mr. King showed the FTTC the area that has the affected Zelkovas. Mr. Bayletts pointed out that most of those trees have splits in the trunks and Mr. McDill pointed out that most of the trees have damage from mowers. The FTTC would like to point out mulch volcanos on flyers or hangers to homeowners. On Deepwood Drive, Mr. King pointed out to the FTTC the ash trees along Deepwood Dr. that need to be removed. Ms. Chivers asked Mr. King to consider a tree planting along Deepwood Dr on both sides of the road. The FTTC discussed having a policy on how to handle removal or planting of township trees illegally by residents and how to educate the residents about what trees belong to the township.

Old Gatesburg Rd & Pine Hall Rd – Mr. King pointed out that along Old Gatesburg Rd and Pine Hall Rd, the trees seem to be distressed. The trees were originally planted with root barriers, which resulted in the trees not doing well. The contractor did come back and replace the trees but the trees were set too high and still are not going to make it.

Pine Cliff Rd, Autumnwood Dr, Saratoga Dr, Gwenedd Ln, & Charleston Dr – Mr. King stated that this area starts his pruning block that was discussed at the last meeting. There are also a few ash trees in this area that were being treated but are not doing well and need to be removed. The new trees that Behrer's Landscaping planted in this area are doing well.

Bristol Ave, Shellers Bend, Westerly Pkwy & Beaver Ave – Mr. King showed the FTTC the trees along Bristol Ave that were planted as a requirement of the Stonebridge Senior Living development. Mr. King pointed out a planting opportunity along Shellers Bend along with two trees that were damaged as a result of a drunk driving accident. He told the FTTC that the original plan of having the insurance company pay to replace the trees is not going to happen. Mr. King suggested to leave the trees and see how the trees fair over the next few years rather than replace them with one inch trees. It was also pointed out that there are ash trees along

Shellers Bend that are doing well but several more need to be replaced. Mr. King said that the one tree along West Beaver is probably the largest tree that needs to be removed. He stated that the Township owns three norway maple trees along a back alley off West Beaver that he took some of the weight off the trees and placed a cable in one of the trees.

Blue Course Drive- Mr. King showed the FTTC the trees in the median along Blue Course Dr. Most of the trees are not doing very well. Pending results of the soil tests, the FTTC will discuss what type of tree to plant to replace the dying or removed trees.

Teaberry Ln & Ridge Master Dr- This will be the area to be pruned in 2017. Some of the trees the FTTC saw during this trip are not on the listing because when Mr. King did his walk around the township those trees did not seem to be in bad shape. Mr. King has done some pruning.

Park Crest Ln, Devonshire Dr, & Farmstead Ln- Mr. King spoke about the type of trees that were planted along Martin Street years ago. The crab apple trees are difficult to prune but as long as the trees stay healthy the trees will not be removed. The Park Forest area is not a high priority planting area. Mr. King showed the FTTC two trees that the homeowner cut to a certain shape and the suggestion was made to enforce the ordinances to keep residents from damaging trees in this manner. A slight detour was made to show the FTTC the area that is affected by the Oak Wilt disease.

Linnet Ln, Partridge Ln, & Tanager Dr- Mr. King showed the FTTC trees that need to be removed and a few need to be added to the list that have rapidly declined since the last visit. There are quite a few ash trees that need to be removed along these streets, along with other dead trees. There are a few ash trees that are doing alright.

Sagamore Dr, Northampton St, Barnstable Ln, & Sandy Dr,- The FTTC was shown more ash trees that need to be removed along these streets. This area is also a good planting opportunity for new trees plantings. Mr. King pointed out that a contractor dug a trench to install fiber optic line and the result was that the trees were damaged. The township does have money on retainer to replace them if the trees do not make it. Mr. King showed the FTTC where a resident trimmed a few trees on their own property in Chestnut Ridge Manor. Mr. King asked the FTTC if any action should be taken against the homeowner. The FTTC said that since the pruning was done well and if no harm comes out of the act of pruning then no action should be taken.

West North Hills Place- The property located at 127 West North Hills Place has a few trees that need to be removed. Some work has been done to these trees in the past but now the trees now need to be removed.

With no further business, the FTTC returned to the Township Building and established the next meeting date and time as August 22, 2016 at 5:30 pm. The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Ferguson Township Tree Commission
Monday, July 18, 2016

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Modricker", written over a horizontal dashed line.

David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission