

## **FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting

Monday, January 19, 2015

5:30 pm

### **I. ATTENDANCE**

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting on Monday, January 19, 2015 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

**Commission:** Marc McDill, Chairman  
Mike Jacobson, Vice Chair  
Troy Bayletts  
Darlene Weener

**Staff:** David Modricker, Director of Public Works

Others in attendance included: Heather Bird, Recording Secretary; Kathy Mayberry, Bob K, Joe Boston, Chestnut Ridge Manor Homeowners' Association; Ansusan Brewer, Stonebridge Homeowners' Association

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

Mr. McDill called the Monday, January 19, 2015 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

### **III. DISCUSSION OF FERGUSON TOWNSHIP EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR TREE COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Mr. Modricker explained the process of accessing Township email to the Commission.

### **IV. 2015 STREET TREE PLANTING PLAN**

Mr. Modricker presented the 2015 Street Tree Planting Plan. He stated that this process began a year ago and in the near future the Commission will begin to look at the Spring Planting Plan for 2016. Mr. Al Sam, State College Borough Arborist, created the 2015 Street Tree Planting Plan primarily focusing on the areas with ash trees. The plan includes 22 miscellaneous locations throughout the Township, Blue Course Drive and the Sylvan View neighborhood. Mr. Modricker presented the street tree map showing the proposed trees to be removed, replaced and those that will be treated.

Mr. McDill asked when the Township tree inventory will be completed. Mr. Modricker stated it is anticipated to be completed by the end of February. Mr. McDill stated the Commission should discuss the type of species they would like to see distributed throughout the Township based on the existing tree inventory. At this time he proposed the 2015 planting plan should be supported and the Commission can begin work on the 2016 Plan in the future. He suggested that a 2016 plan be drafted before summer and then the Commission can drive around and look at the proposed areas to make determinations. He proposed doing this in July. Mr. Modricker stated he will have a draft at the June meeting. The Commission members agreed on this plan.

Mr. Modricker continued the review of the planting plan. Mr. McDill asked how many trees will be bid out. Mr. Modricker responded that a total of 65 trees will be included in the bid. Because 65 trees is less than anticipated there is money left in the budget presenting an option to have a second planting in the fall.

Mr. McDill made a motion to ACCEPT the 2015 Street Tree Planting Plan as presented. Ms. Weener seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. REVIEW PLANTING PLAN FOR SAYBROOK PHASES 9A AND 9B**

Mr. Modricker displayed the approved subdivision plan for Saybrook. S & A Homes is the developer for this neighborhood and Lindsey Kiefer will be planting the trees and is currently working with the Township to plant trees that are not on the original plan because they were primarily ash trees. Mr. Kiefer acquired trees from the street tree planting last year in Hunters Chase and Saybrook after the contract was terminated due to tree size.

Mr. McDill asked if there will still be a one year warranty from planting time. Mr. Modricker confirmed that there will still be a one year warranty.

Ms. Weener asked if the Commission should consider if the type of tree is appropriate for the conditions. Mr. Modricker stated the trees approved in the tree resolution were determined to be good street trees for this area and were broken down by small, medium and large size trees.

Mr. Jacobson asked if Al Sam reviewed this plan. Mr. Modricker stated that Mr. Sam did review this plan.

Mr. McDill prefers the diversity in species included with this plan as opposed to one species for a full street. He asked how frequently the tree inventory will be completed. Mr. Modricker anticipates every 5 years. He proposed using a student intern to assist with the tree inventory. This may allow for an inventory update every year.

Mr. McDill made a motion to APPROVE the Planting Plan for Saybrook Phases 9A and 9B. Mr. Bayletts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. REVIEW OF PLANTING PLAN FOR WESTFIELD PARK**

Mr. Modricker presented the planting plan for Westfield Park prepared by Tiffany Barto. The Hillside Farm / Westfield Park showed the proposed first phase. The plan includes clusters of existing trees that will remain and the proposed plantings around the walking path.

Mr. McDill stated that he is not a fan of Norway spruce and would like to see native trees planted in this area. If possible he would like to see a white spruce planted in place of the Norway spruce and sycamores planted in place of the London plain. A park area should be natural and include as many native trees as possible.

Ms. Weener talked about the physocarpus proposed on the plan. She stated that this plant is very difficult to remove once it is planted. She would like to see a better shrub, one for birds such as a cranberry viburnum. Mr. McDill agreed to this and he stated that Clearwater Conservancy would be willing to work with the Township on native plants.

Ms. Weener stated she would prefer to see more bushes for birds and pollinators and fruited trees. Mr. McDill suggested using native grasses, meadow mix, in areas that do not need mowed.

This item was tabled until Mr. Modricker could further research the recommendations by the Commission.

#### **VII. TREE REMOVAL PLAN FOR HAYMARKET PARK**

Mr. Modricker stated the Township signed an agreement with the developers of the Landings to allow a portion of Haymarket Park to be regarded and allowed for use as a stormwater management facility. Mr. Modricker presented the map of the park and the areas where trees will be removed. He pointed out where there is an opportunity for a future planting plan. Mr. McDill suggested relocating the trees being removed.

Mr. Jacobson asked if the land will be heavily compacted. Mr. Modricker stated it will.

Mr. McDill discussed planting on the left side of the berm and using structural soils. This would allow for the top of the berm to be a trail. Mr. Modricker stated this concept has been discussed.

Mr. Jacobson stated the berm is what homeowners will see so the trees would be best located between the berm and the neighboring homes.

Mr. Bayletts commented about the structural soil set ups, could use a hub and spoke pattern, this would be the tree planted with trenches dug out from it filled with structural soil.

#### **VIII. UPDATE ON ARBORIST POSITION**

Mr. Modricker stated there were 12 applications received. The interviews for selected candidates will be scheduled in the near future.

#### **IX. REVIEW OF STREET TREE PLANTING REQUEST BY STONEBRIDGE HOA**

Mr. Modricker stated the Stonebridge Homeowners Association states that in the open areas the homeowners association has to maintain the trees. In this case the 400 foot entryway for Stonebridge that was planted with ash trees. The ash trees have been removed and the homeowners association has contacted Scott's Landscaping for planting of new trees. Scott's would like to plant 10 trees including three 2 ½ inch dogwoods, four 2 ½ inch hedge maples and three 2 ½ inch kwanzan cherry trees.

Mr. McDill commented that all of the trees suggested are small trees. Ms. Ansusan Brewer, Stonebridge HOA, commented that the current HOA board did not want large canopy of trees that would obstruct views and were interested in trees themselves. Ms. Weener stated that the cherry trees are a short lived tree. Mr. McDill stated they may have difficulty getting the dogwoods to grow well in full sun. Ms. Brewer asked for suggestions of other trees. Mr. McDill suggested a longer living cherry tree and tree lilacs. Ms. Weener suggested a crap apple tree.

#### **X. CHESTNUT RIDGE MANOR**

After Mr. Modricker departed to join the Board of Supervisor's meeting at 7pm, The Commission addressed comments from representatives of the Chestnut Ridge Manor Homeowners Association regarding replacement of 5 ash trees with the spring 2015 Township Street Tree Planting contract. The homeowners association requested Magnifica Hackberry and Silver Linden trees.

**XI. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 17, 2014 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. McDill made a motion to APPROVE the minutes from the November 17, 2014 Tree Commission Meeting. Mr. Bayletts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the January 19, 2015 regular Tree Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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

David Modricker, Director of Public Works  
For the Tree Commission