

## **FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

5:30 pm

### **I. ATTENDANCE**

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

**Commission:** Marc McDill, Chairman  
Troy Bayletts  
Jackie Esposito

**Staff:** David Modricker, Director of Public Works  
Mark Kunkle, Township Manager

Others in attendance included: Heather Bird, Recording Secretary; Tiffany Barto and Jim Carpenter, Centre Region Park and Recreation

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

Mr. McDill called the Tuesday, February 17, 2015 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:37 pm.

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

Mr. Modricker reviewed the 2015 street tree planting plan as it went out for bid. The plan previously submitted to the Commission did not include five trees in Chestnut Ridge Manor. Attached to the contract was the ordinance and resolutions passed for the new tree regulations. All of the trees have been marked for removal and/or replacement.

Mr. McDill asked what happens if residents in Chestnut Ridge Manor choose to upgrade? Mr. Modricker stated that decision will be finalized after the bids are opened and the prices are compared.

Ms. Esposito asked the timeline for bids. Mr. Modricker stated the bid opening will be February 24, 2015 and at the Board meeting for final approval on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **IV. REVIEW OF EMERALD ASH BORER TREE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. Modricker stated that there is no written program for the Ash Borer Management Program. In 2008 the Township street tree inventory showed 697 ash trees, 2012 was the first year that ash trees were specifically replaced and the Township replaced 97 ash trees. Staff attended educational seminars, listened to webinars, consulted with Al Sam and had discussions with other agencies and made the decision to not treat ash trees in the Township. However some communities wanted to treat their ash trees so the Township entered into three agreements with Homeowners Associations: Chestnut Ridge Manor, Cobble Creek and Stable Hill to treat ash trees within their communities. These agreements outline cost sharing for these treatments between the Township and Homeowners Associations. Mr. Kunkle stated the agreements are for ten years, due to the theory that in ten years the emerald ash borer will be no longer a threat.

Mr. McDill commented that Michigan had the ash borer problem for 10 years or more. He agreed with the general Township policy to not treat unless it was for very old large value trees.

Mr. Modricker displayed the Chestnut Ridge Manor agreement which outlines the schedule for removal of trees. He stated the homeowners approached the Township about not removing the trees further. Mr. McDill suggested letting the homeowners association pay the full cost of treatment if they wish to keep the trees. Mr. Bayletts stated at the last meeting the residents seemed adamant about keeping their trees.

Mr. Modricker reviewed the map for future ash tree removal and replacement plantings.

Mr. McDill suggested contacting homeowners associations to see if the residents would like to treat the ash trees. Ms. Esposito stated that when contacting the associations to make sure that they are aware that it may be too late to treat the trees. Mr. Bayletts agreed and stated the Township would need to determine those trees worth saving. Ms. Esposito suggested using the Centre Daily Times to educate individuals on the ash borer issues affecting the community.

#### **V. REVIEW OF PLANTING PLAN FOR WESTFIELD PARK**

Mr. Modricker stated the plan was originally reviewed at the last Tree Commission meeting. The Norway spruce was chosen over White Pine due to storm damage concerns with the Whites. Physocarpus is a native plant. Sycamore trees prefer wet soils and London Plane trees will do better in this setting. Staff is reviewing opportunities for a meadow mix in a no mow area.

Ms. Tiffany Barto, Centre Region Parks and Recreation, stated she chose the Norway spruce because DCNR lists that as a valuable species. Mr. McDill asked if a white spruce could be used. Ms. Barto stated that white pines are difficult to use as a border tree because they are fragile.

Mr. Modricker stated that the park plantings have been done by the Township Public Works crew. Ms. Barto stated they purchase from Wheatfield.

Mr. Modricker presented the plan to the Commission for a review. Ms. Barto showed a couple areas where trees have been removed from the plan due to grading issues. Mr. McDill asked if the walking path can be moved to allow room for plantings on both sides of the path. It was discussed that the main grass area may be used for sporting activities and the path will probably not be relocated to allow for the space. Mr. McDill suggested minor modifications to make the plants and trees small wildlife friendly.

The Commission discussed options for location of meadow mix and where trees or shrubs could be located along the path.

The area will be scheduled for a fall planting after the completion of the construction for phase 1.

#### **VI. REMEMBRANCE TREE PLANTINGS IN TOWNSHIP PARKS**

Ms. Barto stated the deadline for this is March 15<sup>th</sup>. She asked if the Commission would be in support of using native species. She stated on some occasions an odd request comes in and is honored but mainly those planted are native. Ms. Esposito asked if the program is outgrowing the ability to plant trees. Mr. Jim Carpenter, Centre Region Parks and Recreation, stated that they are running into a problem with the number of requests for certain parks, some parks had to be closed off to plantings. Ms. Barto stated the arboretum area at Tudek Park is out of room. They are currently looking for a new arboretum area.

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

Mr. Modricker stated that at the last meeting the Commission discussed the basin that will be built at Haymarket Park. The trees along the Sylvan View side of the park will be removed. Mr. Modricker reviewed the plan showing the location of the trees being kept and removed. He indicated the area where new plantings are suggested. The plan shows the trees along the top and construction along the lower portion, top of the berm.

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

Mr. Larry Maginnis will begin work on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

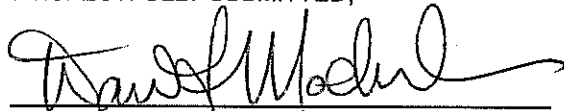
**IX. REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM JOE BOSTON, SAGAMORE DRIVE  
REGARDING ASH TREE REMOVALS IN CRM HOA AND TREE REPLACEMENT  
PROCESS**

Mr. Modricker stated Mr. Boston would like to see different trees than the homeowners association. Mr. McDill stated that Mr. Boston would support the plantings suggested as long as they went with the largest trees possible. Mr. McDill stated that he discussed with him on the tree species he wanted and how they may not be the best fit for this area.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the February 17, 2015 regular Tree Commission meeting was adjourned at 6:57 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