

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, April 20, 2015

5:30 pm

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting on Monday, March 16, 2015 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

Commission: Marc McDill, Chairman
Troy Bayletts
Darlene Weener
Jackie Esposito

Staff: David Modricker, Director of Public Works
Mark Kunkle, Township Manager
David Pribulka, Assistant Township Manger
Eric Endresen, Director of Finance

Others in attendance included: Heather Bird, Recording Secretary; Kathy Mayberry, Shelley Kempner, Bob Kruszewski, Virginia Mountz, Suzanne Berezniak, Gerry and Barbara Michael, Mark Noel, Tom and Anita FrankLen Schickling, Chris Turley, Laura Dininni, Bill Liberman

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. McDill called the Monday, April 20, 2015 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 16, 2015 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Weener made a motion to APPROVE the March 16, 2015 regular meeting minutes. Ms. Esposito seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. REQUEST BY MARK NOEL TO DELAY TREE PLANTING IN CHESTNUT RIDGE MANOR

Mr. McDill began the conversation by asking Mr. Mark Noel to present to the Board his concerns.

Mr. Noel stated the Chestnut Ridge Manor development is losing all of their ash trees because of the emerald ash borer. Over the last year residents were waiting to be presented with a plan on the removal of the ash trees and what types of trees will replace those. Mr. Noel raised this issue at the last homeowners' association meeting where he was informed that an agreement had been made with the Township and trees were scheduled to be planted. At the annual association meeting Mr. Noel presented that the tree planting decisions were being made without any professional arborist's recommendation. He recommended the association form a tree committee and delay the new tree planting until fall of 2015. Mr. Noel and other residents are not in support of the species of trees selected for replacement. Mr. Noel has volunteered to purchase the five trees chosen for replacement and donate those in order to delay the planting in their neighborhood.

Mr. Modricker stated the Township entered into an agreement with Chestnut Ridge Manor Homeowners Association regarding the treatment, removal and replacement of the ash trees in the development. The current five trees to be replaced were reviewed and recommended by the Tree Commission, representatives of the Chestnut Ridge Manor HOA and Mr. Alan Sam, State College Borough Arborist, and are listed on the approved street tree planting list.

Mr. Noel stated residents in Chestnut Ridge Manor have signed a petition to hold off the planting until fall of 2015.

Mr. McDill stated the Tree Commission is newly formed and plans to improve the process of communication with residents in regards to tree treatment, removal and replacement. He is in

favor of Mr. Noel purchasing the trees for donation and then further discussing what trees to plant in the Development. He reminded residents that the Township did communicate with the Homeowners Association on this matter. He also stated that even if the Commission does recommend to delay the planting this does not mean the Homeowners' Association will be able to choose any type of tree to be planted and the Association will be responsible for the cost of the next five trees.

Mr. Modricker presented the three options available at this time: plant the five trees as proposed, plant one tree (Mr. Boston's home) and reserve places for fall planting of the remaining four, or plant no trees.

Ms. Weener stated she would like the Commission to work with the Homeowners Association to create the best solution for the neighborhood as a whole. She would only support postponing the planting until fall if it does not cause undue hardship for the Township.

Ms. Esposito questioned who the Township should be making these negotiations with. She does think that more tree information should be shared and presented with the public. She wants to make a decision for the best interest of the neighborhood and the Township.

Mr. Bayletts stated he would be in support of postponing the planting until fall.

Mr. McDill reviewed the three options presented by Mr. Modricker.

The residents indicated they would be in support of planting one tree (Mr. Boston's) at this time and delaying the remaining four until fall.

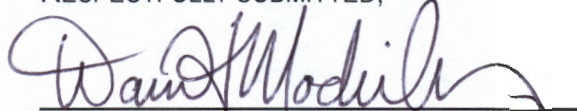
The Commission recommended that Mr. Boston receive his one tree and postpone planting on the remaining four trees.

Mr. McDill stated the homeowners' association would need to have a recommendation for trees to the Commission by June for a fall planting. He recommended the association wait for a spring 2016 planting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the April 20, 2015 regular Tree Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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

David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission
Dated 06/15/2015