

## **FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting  
Monday, July 13, 2015  
5:30 pm

### **I. ATTENDANCE**

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting on Monday, July 13, 2015 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

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

**Staff:** Lance King, Arborist

Others in attendance included: Heather Bird, Recording Secretary; Laura Dininni

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

Mr. McDill called the Monday, July 13, 2015 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

### **III. PINTRODUCTION OF LANCE KING, ARBORIST BY DAVID PRIBULKA, ASSISTANT MANAGER**

Mr. Pribulka stated Mr. Lance King will be the Township's first full time Arborist. He spent the last 10 years working for the Borough of State College, seven of those years as a dendrician performing all Borough tree maintenance and three years as a foreman in the maintenance department. He is an ISA Certified Arborist, Pennsylvania licensed Pesticide Applicator and an Associate Degree in Forest Technology from Penn College.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF JUNE 15, 2015 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Weener made a motion to APPROVE the June 15, 2015 regular meeting minutes. Ms. Esposito seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **V. DISCUSSION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR STREET, PARK AND OTHER PUBLIC TREES IN THE TOWNSHIP AND/OR DISCUSSION OF A STRATEGIC PLAN**

Mr. McDill began stating that the Commission wanted to discuss the mission and goals of the Commission and the way these goals will relate to Mr. King. Mr. McDill stated that he was on the Borough of State College Tree Commission and he would envision this Commission handling similar issues. Ferguson Township is different than the Borough because of the land development still occurring in the Township. The Arborist and the Commission will need to identify trees that need to be replaced and what to replace them with, identify areas for new planting and going after resources to fund new planting and maintaining the existing trees the Township has. The Township contains many Homeowners' Associations which factor into the decisions surrounding trees in those developments.

Mr. King stated every street tree was included in the street tree inventory that the Commission received a summary of. Currently he has an access file with the location of trees. At some point these will be imported into GIS to display the trees in a map format. Ms. Weener stated that a visual of the trees would assist greatly for future tree planting plans.

Ms. Esposito stated over the last six months the Commission has worked with Township staff on education for the ash borer.

Ms. Weener asked what the priority level is of the removal of the 2% of dead trees listed in the street tree inventory. Mr. King stated that he has ordered supplies and once those are received he will begin to prioritize those removals and trimmings.

Mr. King discussed a call regarding a tree with Oak Wilt.

Mr. McDill stated that there are several items that need immediate care and the Commission and Mr. King should determine long term goals. Mr. King stated that the street tree inventory included 119 trees listed for removal. Mr. McDill stated a plan should be put into place to keep better track of new trees planted and if a claim should be made on a dead tree during the one year guarantee.

Ms. Weener discussed the need for a public hearing for tree removal. Mr. McDill stated this would be needed for mature trees in the Township. If a new tree needed replaced this would not need a public hearing.

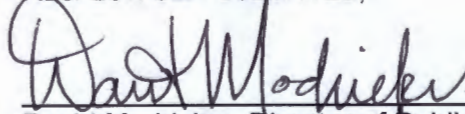
Mr. McDill asked if it will be possible to take care of the 119 trees in 2016. Mr. King stated that with the proper resources this can be done. As for the replacement of these trees, this may not all be done in 2016. Mr. King stated that along with the 119 trees marked for removal 76 additional trees were marked to have large dead wood. A mature tree with large dead wood is hazardous. The inventory also includes 97 trees with some decay. Mr. King will have to take time to go look at the trees marked for these categories to determine the actual hazards and prioritize.

The Commission discussed the need to establish a budget for Township trees and the Arborist needs, the need to outsource tree maintenance at this time, keeping the Board informed on the urban forest, determining the items that need to have an established work plan and various other duties needed to be completed by the Commission and the Township Arborist.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the June 15, 2015 regular Tree Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



David Modricker, Director of Public Works  
For the Tree Commission