

## **FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting

Monday, February 12, 2018

5:30 pm

### **I. ATTENDANCE**

The Tree Commission held its public meeting on Monday, February 12, 2018 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

**Commission:** Howard Fescemyer, Chair  
Darlene Chivers, Vice Chair  
Jerry Learn  
Mike Jacobson  
Marc McDill

**Staff:** Lance King, Arborist  
David Modricker, Director of Public Works

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

Mr. Fescemyer called the Monday, February 12, 2018 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:39 pm.

### **III. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. McDill made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Learn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. ARBOR DAY 2018**

Mr. King introduced Mr. Adam Smith from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Megan Hoskins contacted Mr. Smith to help coordinate the 2018 Arbor Day activities. Mr. King told the Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) that the clearing of the land behind the Waffle Shop on Owens Drive commenced today. Mr. Smith explained to the FTTC that a portion of land would be cleared today with all of the clearing work completed by week's end. The area that is being cleared is mostly bushes but a few walnut trees were removed as well. Mr. Learn asked if the walnut tree stumps would be removed and Mr. Smith said that they may be removed during the clearing process but some herbicide will be needed to remove the remainder of the stumps. The FTTC members told Mr. King that they were appreciative of the letters that were sent to the adjacent property owners to explain what was being done at that site. A few people inquired with Mr. Modricker for additional detail. Signs have been placed around the property to explain that the area is under construction. 200 trees will be donated by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to plant in the area. The idea is to have more species with vertical branches such as chokeberry and dogwood instead of trees that have horizontal branches to provide habitats for birds. The amount of walnut trees need to be kept to a minimum since many plant species cannot tolerate the soil under a walnut tree. Mr. McDill asked if there is a reason why a certain part of the area doesn't have trees and if planting trees in that area would result in a lot of tree death. Mr. King said that he would conduct soil sampling in advance of tree planting. Mr. Modricker and Mr. Fescemyer asked what type of birds are going to be attracted to this location. Woodcocks are very attracted to this type of environment and hopefully will inhabit the area. Mr. Modricker asked Mr. Smith to draw a schematic of the fencing to help keep the deer from eating/destroying the newly planted

trees. Mr. King explained that the pollinator planting will be a secondary phase of this project and may wait until the fall. Mr. Smith asked if the Township would be interested in removing a large rock pile at the location in exchange for more time donated on this project by his staff. The rock would be great to use in the local streams by the US Fish and Wildlife.

#### **V. 2018 ASH TREATMENT**

Mr. King updated the FTTC on the status of the 28 ash trees left in the Township that are being treated. Aikey's Tree Service won the contract for 2018. The HOA's were contacted to see if they were interested in continuing treatment of the ash trees. All the HOA's were in agreement to continue treatment. The treatment is good for 2 years.

#### **VI. 2017 C15 STREET TREE PRUNING**

Mr. King updated the FTTC on the status of the street tree pruning contract. The work was completed today and Mr. King will go and inspect the trees hopefully by the end of the week. Mr. King has been pleased with the work that has completed. Only one resident has been upset by the pruning. Ms. Chivers asked how many trees were pruned. Mr. King said that it was approximately 650 trees.

#### **VII. OAK WILT POLICY**

Mr. Fescemyer told the FTTC that the policy for oak wilt was brought up at the Meet the Arborist event. Ian Groy (Bartlett Tree Service) brought up the idea of using growing degree days in relation to pruning of oak trees. Essentially the concern is that due to weather pattern changes, the days that an oak tree should or should not be pruned can change. The time frame to prune an oak tree may vary due to the weather and temperature. Bartlett would like to calculate the time frame for trimming oak trees using the growing degree days method instead of a solid from this month to this month basis. The FTTC does agree that using a scientific method is a good idea, however, the end does not justify the means. It may just confuse people more and give the impression that there is no longer a concern for a time frame. Mr. King said that he has spoken with Dr. Bruce Fraedrich and there is consensus that an ordinance have a month to month time frame. The FTTC is in agreement that the way the policy is currently written is fine. Mr. King will track the growing degree days on a spreadsheet for future reference.

#### **VIII. ARBORIST REPORT**

Mr. King asked the FTTC members for assistance in locating an intern. As of today he has not received any applications for the position at Ferguson Township. Mr. McDill told Mr. King to put the ad in Eco-Log, or Mount Alto Campus and West Virginia University.

Mr. King contacted the Stonebridge HOA regarding tree planting in that neighborhood. In the current tree planting contract there are 12 trees that are proposed to be planted in Stonebridge. The Township manager, David Pribulka, met with Mr. King and Mr. Modricker and there is consensus for funding the trees that are to be planted in Stonebridge. Mr. Modricker met with AnnSusan Brewer from Stonebridge and Mr. King will be attending the next Stonebridge HOA meeting to discuss future plantings.

Mr. King told the FTTC that he has been contacted by a homeowner that has a large silver maple located in the right of way along Deibler Road and Route 45. This silver maple tree is part of the historical society records and is well known throughout the county. The home owner is

Larry Harpster and he is concerned about a lead off the tree that is cracked and overhangs the roadway and may become a hazard. Mr. King is in the process of obtaining a resistograph and he plans the first use of this tool on this tree. Mr. King is concerned that the overall health of the tree is not good and removing only one part of the tree will not solve the problem. If the tree is determined to not be in good health he will remove the entire tree. If the tree is determined to be sound, he will only remove the part of the tree that is a hazard. Mr. King said that he would let the Centre County Historical Society know if the tree is going to be removed.

Mr. King told the FTTC that Ferguson Township plans to build a new public works building that is going to be LEED Gold certified. The landscaping around the Township buildings is also planned to be updated to be more environmentally useful. Plans for the project will be brought to a FTTC meeting for review.

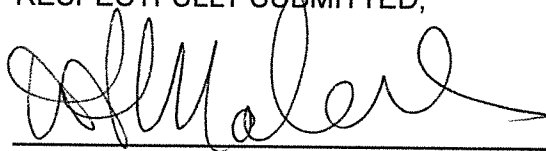
Mr. King let the FTTC know that he will be doing a sample lesson to see if he would qualify as a substitute teacher at Penn Tech. In order to work at a different job, he will be using PTO at the Township.

#### **IX. Future Agenda Items**

Ms. Chivers attends the SAC meetings and would like to integrate the FTTC ideas with stormwater management and the SALDO review. She would like the FTTC members to talk and discuss ideas. Mr. Modricker gave the FTTC a response regarding Ms. Chivers concerns in this matter.

With no further business, the February 12, 2018 Tree Commission regular meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Modricker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Modricker, Director of Public Works  
For the Tree Commission