

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, September 21, 2015

5:30 pm

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting on Monday, September 21, 2015 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

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

Staff: Lance King, Arborist
Dave Modricker, Director of Public Works

Others in attendance included: Len Schickling, Chestnut Ridge Manor; Mike Degenhart and Dare Coudriet, Thistlewood Homeowner's Association

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. McDill called the Monday, September 21, 2015 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

III. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 17, 2015 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Esposito made a motion to APPROVE the August 17, 2015 regular meeting minutes. Mr. Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. REVIEW OF PLANTING PLAN AND ASH TREE REMOVAL AND TREATMENT FOR CHESTNUT RIDGE MANOR (CRM)

Mr. King stated he previously talked to members of the Chestnut Ridge Manor Homeowners Association and they agreed on attempting to preserve the ash trees that have been marked for treatment. The Township and the Association differ in the type of trees to be planted as replacements for the ash trees that will be removed.

Mr. McDill stated that he discussed with Association and he understood that they wanted to have maple trees planted. He suggested that there are already a lot of maples in the neighborhood and Township and in the interest of diversifying the tree species, maples were not going to be planted.

Mr. Len Schickling stated that the general agreement of the Association was that they liked maple and pear trees. They were willing to accept the Black Gum Cultivar "Red Rage" as replacements for the Ash trees and would request that if an existing red maple on Harvest Ridge Drive was destroyed that it could be replaced with another red maple.

Mr. Modricker stated that years ago during an October ice storm the area of Chestnut Ridge Manor was hit hard damaging many of the red maples which at the time were replaced with red maples. Mr. Schickling stated that he understood when they were replaced a different cultivar of red maple was used that appears to have a stronger limb structure. He again stated that they would prefer to know that if future damage occurred that they could be replaced with the same tree.

The Commission informally agreed to replace red maples along Harvest Ridge Drive with red maples if damage occurred in the future.

Mr. Jacobson made a motion to accept the Black Gum Cultivar "Red Rage" for the 2015 planting in Chestnut Ridge Manor. Ms. Chivers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. THISTLEWOOD

Mr. Modricker stated that many years ago when the development was built there was discussion on whether or not street trees were appropriate. In the end the developer posted surety for public improvements and those improvements included street trees, which were planted. Mr. Modricker presented a plan of the development showing the right-of-ways and easements. The Association representative stated that some of the trees planted years ago were already half dead. They want to have a tree plan to make the street trees better in their neighborhood.

Ms. Chivers asked how many public trees are in Thistlewood. Mr. Modricker stated approximately 115 street trees.

The Association representative stated that they would like the Township to replace the damaged and unhealthy trees and would like to see the Township have a nice planting plan for the entrance to the development.

Mr. King stated that the swale design in Thistlewood creates a challenge for planting trees. The Commission and Association discussed which trees are public and private.

Mr. McDill stated if the Township would take control of the trees on the Associations land an easement would need to be agreed upon. The Association could pay to replace the trees and create an easement for the Township to take control of in the future. The Association representatives stated this should not be their financial responsibility because the surety for those should have been held. Mr. Modricker stated these trees were supposed to be public trees, planted on private land in a ten foot shade tree easement. At this time none of the trees fall in this easement and are on private property. The easement location is within the swale.

Ms. Chivers stated that she agreed with the Association members that this issue was between the Township and the developer and this was not the fault of the Association. Mr. Modricker stated the desire is to make an agreement that would right this situation. He stated the Tree Commission should decide whether street trees make sense in this area and if so where would be the best locations. The Association wants the process to be fair and does not wish the Township to incur unnecessary costs. They feel the entrance areas are the most important.

Mr. King stated that an easement would need to be initiated and all new trees would need to be planted within that easement. The Township could take ownership of existing trees already in this area. The other option would be planting in the swales but there would need to be engineering study to determine if that would affect the purpose of the swales.

The Commission and Association agreed to pursue the possibility that the Township will take ownership of existing trees and replant trees as needed at both entrances into the development on both Association owned land and private land within the new easement area. The Association will hold a meeting to determine if this is agreeable throughout the development. If the Association and Township come to an agreement, the arborist will prepare a planting plan and attempt to gain funds for a 2016 spring planting.

VI. REVIEW UPDATED PLANTING PLAN FOR COBBLE CREEK

Mr. King presented the updated plan for Cobble Creek which included removing the sassafras trees. The Commission reviewed the updated planting plan for Cobble Creek and approved the updated plan.

VII. REVIEW UPDATED MISCELLANEOUS TREE REMOVAL AND PLANTING PLAN

Mr. King presented the updated miscellaneous tree removal planting plan which now includes the replacement species that were not previously indicated. The Commission reviewed the

updated planting plan and approved of the updated plan as presented.

VIII. RESOLUTION 2014-24 APPROVED LIST OF TREE SPECIES, CULTIVARS AND HYBRIDS FOR STREET AND PARK TREES

Mr. McDill stated Ms. Chivers created a list of trees to add to the street tree list. The Commission discussed the trees on Ms. Chiver's list and those presented by Mr. King and decided to include the addition of the following trees: Flowering Dogwood-Cornus florida, Serviceberry-Amalanchier sp., American Larch-Larix laricina, Bigtooth Aspen-Populus grandidentata, Mockernut Hickory-Carya tomentosa, Quacking Aspen-Populus tremuloides, Sweet Birch-Betula lenta, Black Cherry-Prunus serotina, Chestnut Oak-Quercus montana, Pignut Hickory-Carya glabra, Scarlet Oak-Quercus coccinea, Shagbark Hickory-Carya ovata, Shellback Hickory-Carya laciniosa, American Sycamore-Platanus occidentalis, White Oak-Quercus alba, Pin Oak-Quercus palustris, Sourwood-Oxydendron arboretum and Carolina Silverbell-Halesia Carolina.

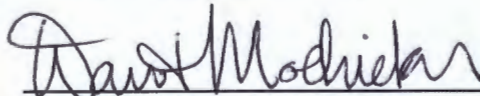
IX. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King stated he and other staff met with representatives from Centre Region Park and Recreation to discuss trees in Township parks including mower damage, planting plans and future goals for park trees and the budgets for these tree plantings and maintenance. He continues to work on the pruning plans and this should be out to contract by the end of September. The removal notices for the first round of tree removals went out the week of September 7th. He had a meeting with Mr. Al Sam, State College Borough, on regional issues. He has completed a number of surety inspections including Hunters Chase and Turnberry. He has completed inspection work at Cecil Irvin Park. He worked with the Public Works department to help avoid damage to oak trees while conduit is laid at the Teener League field.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the September 21, 2015 regular Tree Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission