

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, August 19, 2019
5:30 PM**

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its public meeting on Monday, August 19, 2019 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

COMMISSION:

Howard Fescemyer, Chairperson
Marc McDill
Mike Jacobson
Scott Pflumm
Allyson Muth

STAFF:

Lance King, Arborist
David Modricker, Public Works Director

Others in attendance were: Summer Krape, recording secretary; Wes Glebe, Township Resident; Christine Bailey, Ferguson Township Resident.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Fescemyer called the Monday, August 19, 2019 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

III. CITIZEN'S INPUT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

IV. ALLYSON MUTH INTRODUCTION

Dr. Allyson Muth is a new member. Dr. Muth introduced herself to the Commission. She currently serves as Interim Director, Center for Private Forest Management at Penn State University.

V. JULY 15TH MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Fescemyer moved to approve the July 15, 2019 minutes with no corrections. Dr. McDill motioned to approve, Mr. Pflumm seconded and the motion and was passed unanimously.

VI. TREE REPLACEMENT MAPS

Mr. King stated that using the tree removal maps, he prepared tree replacement maps. Mr. King went through each replacement tree and told the Commission what species would be placed at each location. He stated that he tried to capture most species the Commission talked about during the tour, however, some property owners requested certain species other than what he recommended. Dr. Jacobson suggested doing soil testing at the tree locations on Old Gatesburg Road given all the mortality in that area. Forty three total trees will need to be replaced and Mr. King is using eleven different species. The Commission discussed the possibility of using a tree inventory software program to track such items as areas of high mortality, and the source (eg: contractor/nursery) of the

trees.

VII. RIDGE OVERLAY DISCUSSION

The Commission moved to table this agenda item for the September meeting.

VIII. OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Mr. King explained to the Commission the types of outreach the Township has done in the past. He stated that a majority of it has been webpage based and newsletters. Mr. King also stated that he receives a lot of calls from residents for both private and public tree related issues. Mr. King stated that he has also participated in the seedlings for schools program. Mr. Pflumm asked what would need to be done to get funding for some outreach programs. Mr. Modricker stated that if he has some ideas, let staff know, so staff can request funding in the budget. Mr. Modricker explained that mailing separate newsletters could be costly and that each Township wide Spring and Fall newsletter typically contains an article on trees. Dr. Fecsemyer suggested making a subcommittee of two people to come up with ideas for outreach. It was decided that Mr. Pflumm and Dr. Muth will be the outreach/education subcommittee.

Dr. Fecsemyer stated that this topic should go under "Communications" but due to time constraints he would like to talk about it now. Board of Supervisor's member Mrs. Dinnini asked for some information regarding the Whitehall Road Regional Park variance requests. Centre Region Parks and Recreation wants to plant smaller DBH trees (1½ inch trees instead of 2 inch trees), lessen some of the buffer plantings, and lessen the number of trees in the parking area. Mr. King stated they have requested a number of variances, and CRPR went to the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. King stated they were granted the size variances, and the buffer variance was denied. Mrs. Dinnini wanted some information regarding the size at planting and survival rate. Dr. Fecsemyer found literature indicating an optimum size, but much of it pertained to bigger trees. Dr. Fecsemyer asked about the possibility of CRPR utilizing Tree Vitalize funding.

IX. TREE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

No progress to report.

X. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King stated that there was a confirmed case of Oak Wilt on a red oak located on Deepwood Drive. Mr. King is moving forward with the normal process of oak wilt abatement. Mr. King is working with Columbia Gas, installing a gas main in Greenbriar so they drill past the trees rather than open cut. Mr. King attended the ISA conference, which included discussion of tree preservation. Mr. King is working on trimming tree branches that block signs such as stop signs and speed limit signs. He also noted that a property owner on North Hills Place was cited for trimming a pin oak. Mr. King is still working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife on the pollinator area in Haymarket Park, native landscaping at Fairbrook Park and converting 3 more basins at Tudek Park to a pollinator mix.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

Dr. Jacobson stated that there are a lot of trees dying in Patton Township. Mr. King did call Mr. Ken Soder with Patton Township. Mr. King stated that most of these trees are on private land. Mr. King stated that he doesn't think it is oak wilt but maybe anthracnose or two-lined chestnut borer. The Commission discussed if there are tests that can be done on these trees to find out what exactly is affecting them. Mr. King stated that there are tests but someone will need to pay for the tests. Dr. McDill asked what Ferguson Township residents can do to protect the trees in our Township so the issue in Patton Township doesn't spread. Dr. Jacobson suggested that Ferguson pay for the test if you have an oak tree and it's dying. Dr. McDill stated that he thinks we should meet with Patton Township. Mr. King stated that he feels the problem in Patton Township is too far gone at this point. Dr. McDill stated that our Township could set a good example. He would like to see what we can do to address the problem. The Commission discussed putting this in front of the BOS. **Dr. Fecsemyer made a motion to draft an oak pathogen remediation plan for consideration by the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Jacobson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

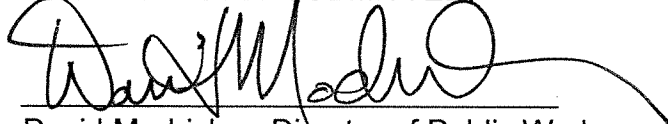
- Education and outreach
- Discussion of the Ridge Overlay District

XIII. OTHER

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The August 19, 2019 Tree Commission meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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