

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, October 21, 2019
5:30 PM**

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its public meeting on Monday, October 21, 2019 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

COMMISSION:

Howard Fescemyer, Chairperson
Mike Jacobson
Scott Pflumm
Allyson Muth

STAFF:

Lance King, Arborist
David Modricker, Public Works Director

Others in attendance were: Summer Krape, recording secretary.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Fescemyer called the Monday, October 21, 2019 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

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

IV. SEPTEMBER 16TH MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Fescemyer stated that on page two under Outreach and Education in the first paragraph it should state "found in ordinance 911". **Dr. Fescemyer made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, Dr. Muth seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

V. TREE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

Dr. Fescemyer reviewed the draft ordinance with the Commission. Dr. Fescemyer stated that the ordinance starts out like most ordinances do, with a purpose that lays the ground work. The Commission discussed the definitions in the ordinance. Mr. Modricker stated that he would like the definitions in the ordinance to be consistent with the definitions throughout other ordinances. The Commission discussed the definition of "canopy tree" and "tree canopy" and which is appropriate language for this ordinance.

The Commission discussed the definition of "historic" or "heritage" tree and discussed the criteria such as the age of the tree or the diameter of the tree. Dr. Fescemyer stated that the enforcement section of the ordinance needs consideration by staff. Mr. Modricker described a timeframe that could take 6 months for the ordinance review process including input from staff, the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. The Commission discussed how the ordinance could potentially affect different types of future development.

There was discussion on the size and proportion of trees that should be preserved or replaced in future developments. Dr. Fescemyer explained his rationale for considering trees that are five inches or greater in diameter, and referred to other ordinances that use that criteria. Dr. Fescemyer reviewed tree protection standards for construction sites. Dr. Muth questioned if a heritage tree need be a native species. Mr. King stated that there is not currently a Township list of native and non-native tree species.

The Commission discussed credits and incentives. Dr. Fescemyer provided examples such as preserving existing landscape/tree buffers. Mr. King discussed the relationship between a credit in the tree preservation ordinance and requirements under existing ordinances such as the stormwater ordinance and cautioned regarding contradictions that could arise unless other ordinances were modified.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING FOR TREE REMOVALS

The public hearing for tree removals for 2019-2020 was called to order at 6:41 pm. No public attended and there were no comments. Mr. King stated that the only outstanding complaint regarded the sand cherries located on Teaberry Lane. Dr. Fescemyer stated that he changed his mind and instead of cutting them down he would like to continue to maintain them. It was decided to keep the trees, and continue to monitor them. With no further discussion, Dr. Fescemyer closed the hearing at 6:51 pm.

VII. OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Dr. Muth stated that the subcommittee did meet with Mr. King and discussed a Podcast series that could be recorded over the winter and the first series could be released by March. The podcasts could possibly be found on the website, Township facebook page, and held in a library. **Dr. Muth made a motion to approve the podcast recording and the Commission agreed. The motion passed unanimously.**

Dr. Muth stated that the subcommittee met with the Master Gardner's that work in Patton and Harris Township and discussed a concern of people working within their bounds and if there would be a possibility to work across boundaries. The subcommittee is looking for support from the Commission to allow the Ferguson Township Tree Commission subcommittee to take the lead and try and achieve inter-municipal cooperation focused on long-term habitat conservation and education. **This topic was tabled until the next meeting.**

VIII. RESIDENT REQUESTS FOR NEW STREET TREES

Nothing discussed.

IX. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King stated that he is working with the Stonebridge HOA on planting new trees in that development next year. Mr. King stated that he issued a tree

removal permit to Columbia Gas for a tree on Deerfield Drive. Mr. King has looked at the particular tree in the past and noted it has been declining. Mr. King permitted the contractor to remove the tree after consultation with the Public Works Director and the adjoining property owner.

X. COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

XII. OTHER

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The October 21, 2019 Tree Commission meeting adjourned at 8:15 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

