

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 16, 2020
5:00 PM**

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its public meeting on Monday, November 16, 2020 via ZOOM. In attendance were:

COMMISSION:

Scott Pflum Chair
Marc McDill – Vice Chair
Allyson Muth
Josh Potter
Mike Jacobson

STAFF:

Lance King, Arborist
David Modricker, Public Works Director
Summer Brown, Recording Secretary

Others in Attendance: Daniel Bunner, SavATree Representative; Nina Safavi, University of Vermont; Jarlath O'Neil Dunn, University of Vermont.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Scott Pflumm called the Monday, November 16, 2020 Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

III. OCTOBER 1ST AND OCTOBER 19TH MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Marc McDill made a motion to approve the both the October 1st and October 19th minutes, Mr. Scott Pflumm seconded the motion, and the motion was passed 4-0 with Dr. Allyson Muth abstaining as she wasn't present at the last meeting.

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

None.

V. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

None.

VI. 2021 FTTC MEETING DATES

Mr. David Modricker stated that the dates are included in the Commission's agenda packets. The meetings will be held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 5:30 pm. The Commission discussed a couple dates and it was decided to do the 4th Monday in January in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The Commission also decided to meet at 5:00 pm in 2021. Dr. McDill made a motion to approve the 2021 FTTC meeting dates, Mr. Pflumm seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

VII. TREE CANOPY SURVEY REPORT

Mr. Daniel Bunner is representing SavATree, Ms. Nina Safavi is the project manager/senior spatial analyst at the University of Vermont, and Dr. Jarlath O'Neil Dunn is the director of spatial analyst unit at University of Vermont. Dr. O'Neil Dunn went through the tree canopy survey report. Dr. O'Neil Dunn presented the report and maps to the Commission. Dr. O'Neil Dunn stated that they studied the changes in the

Township from 2008-2019. The findings show that the overall canopy changed 1.6% and there is a mix of gain and loss. Dr. O'Neil Dunn stated that he predicts the tree canopy will increase over time, with the expansion being in the newly developed areas as the young trees grow. The Commission was shown examples of the change throughout the Township. Dr. O'Neil Dunn went over the growth boundary effect, zoning, and land use aspects. Mr. Daniel Bunner stated that it's important to recognize that the data was collected during heavy development where young trees were planted which resulted in the canopy growth being explosive. Mr. Bunner stated that the Township needs to keep up the work and continue to put resources towards planting young trees and taking care of them.

Dr. McDill asked the representative if it would be possible for the Commission to ask for another layer to be run based on land classification that would be more useful from a policy point of view. Dr. O'Neil Dunn stated that one layer would be fine to run. However, SavATree went through several iterations of layers. Dr. McDill stated that it is not being presented in a way that would benefit policy decision making. Dr. McDill stated that he would like to see particular neighborhoods, state land, and Penn State land. Mr. Modricker stated that SavATree finished the scope of work that the Township asked for, the Township can discuss the possibility of doing a supplement. However, the Township will receive all of the data SavATree has collected and will be able to have the Township GIS technician run the specific layer the Commission is looking for. Ms. Nina Safavi stated that the Township will get an official report of all of the findings and a full data package that includes all of the data and layers. Ms. Safavi stated that the goal is to give the Township what it needs.

VIII. OFFICAL TOWNSHIP PLANT LIST REVIEW

The Commission decided to add all of the plant species from the Moon Township Ground Cover List.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Meet with Jaymes Progar, Township GIS Technician
- Review perennials on plant list
- Review Commission goals
- Elect new officials

X. OTHER

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The November 16, 2020 Tree Commission meeting ended at 7:45 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



David J. Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission