

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 18, 2020
5:30 PM**

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its public meeting on Monday, May 18, 2020 via ZOOM. In attendance were:

COMMISSION:

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

STAFF:

Lance King, Arborist
David Modricker, Public Works Director
Jenna Wargo, Planning and Zoning
Summer Krape, Recording Secretary

Others in Attendance: John Quinn, Ferguson Township Resident.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Scott Pflumm called the Monday, May 18, 2020 Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

III. APRIL 27TH MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Scott Pflumm called for a motion to approve the April 27, 2020 meeting minutes with one correction; that it be made clear that he was the one that dissented the vote in section seven. Dr. Marc McDill made a motion to approve, Mr. Pflumm seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Nothing was discussed.

V. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

Nothing was discussed.

VI. TREE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

Mr. Lance King and Ms. Jenna Wargo met with Mr. David Pribulka, Township Manager and Mr. David Modricker, Township Public Works Director to review their comments/suggestions on the Tree Preservation ordinance. Mr. King stated that they are still addressing staff's comments. A key item they are discussing is where the ordinance will reside. Dr. Mike Jacobson asked why the question of where the ordinance will reside is being asked when no one has seen the draft and what is in it. The Commission discussed this and Ms. Wargo stated that the Township Manager believes the tree preservation ordinance should be in the SALDO since it is tied to land development submissions. Ms. Wargo also stated that it was suggested to remove the heritage/significant tree aspect of the tree

preservation ordinance and move it to the street tree ordinance. Ms. Wargo stated that staff is looking to move the buffer planting requirements from Zoning to SALDO with the ordinance and consolidate the two. Ms. Wargo explained that the incentives that staff will be proposing will be in regards to parking for land development plans.

VII. OFFICIAL TOWNSHIP PLANT LIST

Mr. King stated that the official Township plant list is a list of plant material that land developers are allowed to use in a land development plan that requires landscaping. Mr. King stated that this list was last updated in 1999. The goal is to update this list and get rid of invasive species. Mr. King noted that he sent the Commission member's the updated list and Dr. Allyson Muth, her husband Norris, and Dr. McDill reviewed and submitted comments. Dr. McDill stated that the objective/goal is to remove invasive species and add more native species to give people more options.

VIII. TREE CANOPY SURVEY RFP

Mr. Modricker recapped that at the last meeting the Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors award the tree canopy survey to SavATree. The BOS awarded the Tree Canopy Survey to SavATree. Mr. Modricker stated that there was a kick off meeting with the consultant, BOS member Prasenjit Mitra, and Tree Commission Chair were present. Mr. Modricker gave the Commission a time line for the Tree Canopy Survey.

IX. FTTC PODCAST

Mr. Modricker stated that from his perspective the Tree Commission wants to move forward with the podcast. Mr. Modricker noted that the Township Arborist has concerns and would like to postpone the podcasts until the podcast subcommittee is able to meet in person. Mr. Modricker stated that today's discussion should be focused on what moving forward will look like. Mr. Pflumm gave a summary of the podcast topic for Mr. John Quinn, Township resident. Mr. King stated that he has had conversations with Township staff members close to this project - Nick Fugaro Communications Coordinator and Ms. Centrice Martin Assistant to the Manager. Mr. Fugaro is concerned with the quality of recording via Zoom, and feels that people aren't interested in tree podcasts at this time. Ms. Martin has concerns that the Township's webpage isn't ready for the podcasts.

Mr. Joshua Potter disagreed and stated that people are looking for this during this time. Mr. Potter also stated that Zoom is a way of life right now and most people are utilizing it. As for the webpage not being ready, these podcasts could be live streamed on Township's Facebook account. He also stated that Shaver's Creek has audio and recording equipment and offered to meet in a wooded area and social distance to record a podcast. Mr. Modricker noted that another issue is that Mr. King is working remotely from home some days and is not always at the Township building and asked if any other Commission members would be interested in recording these for the time being.

Mr. Modricker stated that if this is something the Commission is trying to pursue we should include both Ms. Martin and Mr. Fugaro in a meeting and explain what the Commission is trying to do and figure logistics out with them.

X. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King stated that he has been working in the office/doing field work two days a week and working remotely from home the other three days. Last week he completed some clearance pruning, inspection work, and has started injections for emerald ash borer. Mr. King stated that they will be moving forward with planting contract for this spring and will start to plant a week from now.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

XII. OTHER

None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The May 18, 2020 Tree Commission meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Modricker", written in a cursive style.

David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission