

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 31, 2020**

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held a public meeting on Monday, August 31, 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

Jenna Wargo, Planning & Zoning Director

David Pribulka, Township Manager

Summer Krape, Recording Secretary

Others in Attendance:

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Scott Pflumm called the Monday, August 31, 2020 Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

III. AUGUST 17TH MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Pflumm called for a motion to approve the August 17, 2020 meeting minutes. Ms. Summer Krape noted that Mr. Joshua Potter was listed as Dr. under section three, and this has been fixed. The Commission deferred to review these minutes until the September meeting.

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

None.

V. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

Dr. Allyson Muth noted that a Park Forest resident reached out to her about the disposal of trees that may have possibly been killed by oak wilt. Mr. King described past practices of how the Township handled their oak wilt disposal.

VI. TREE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE REVIEW of NVEC LETTER

Mr. Pflumm stated that the Commission left off on page 2 of the Nittany Valley Environmental Collation (NVEC) letter item 2e.II.1. Mr. Pflumm stated for time purposes if an item takes longer than 3 minutes to discuss he will take note and the Commission will come back to that topic.

- Item 2.e.3 additional trees and shrubs to be 90% native – Dr. Marc McDill stated that it does not seem to be unreasonable. Mr. King stated that the Township is currently about 75% native species for street trees but it depends on year and location. Dr. McDill noted that he would like to keep

it simple. **Mr. Pflumm made a motion to shelf this point, Dr. McDill seconded, and the motion passed 4 to 1.**

- Item 2.i regarding invasive plants - Dr. McDill stated that this point is unclear, and the Commission discussed this item. **Mr. Potter made a motion to leave item 2.i as is in the current draft ordinance, Dr. McDill seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

VII. HERITAGE & SIGNIFICANT TREE ORDINANCE REVIEW of NVEC LETTER

The Commission moved to the Heritage & Significant Tree Ordinance portion of the NVEC letter. The Commission discussed various definitions, wording, and grammar. **Mr. Potter made a motion to let Mr. King make the language change to include ecological or community value, Mr. Pflumm seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.**

VIII. OFFICIAL TOWNSHIP PLANT LIST REVIEW of NVEC LETTER

The Commission moved to the Official Township Plant List portion of the NVEC Letter. The Commission discussed the first comment requesting all sellers need comply with the official plant list and Dr. McDill and Dr. Muth both disagreed with the first suggestion stating that the Commission cannot mandate what sellers sell per the PA Nurseryman's Association. **Mr. Pflumm made a motion to accept the NVEC language on point 1, Dr. Jacobson seconded, and the motion was unanimously opposed.**

It was noted that most of the remaining comments by NVEC to the official plant list either will be or have been addressed by staff and the Commission and Mr. King will distribute the updated version to the FTTC. The Commission discussed the modification request process and what body would oversee modification requests.

TREE PRESEVATION ORDINANCE REVIEW

The Commission continued to discuss language, definitions, and changing some points to incentives. Dr. Muth stated that item 1 should be changed to include language to preserve and protect native species and encourage the replacement of non-native species with native species. The Commission also discussed section 2e Additional tree planting requirement and it was decided to add this as an incentive. It was also decided that items 2.e.iv.2 and 2.e.iv.3 and 2.e.iv.4 shouldn't get credit for understory/ground cover.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

X. OTHER

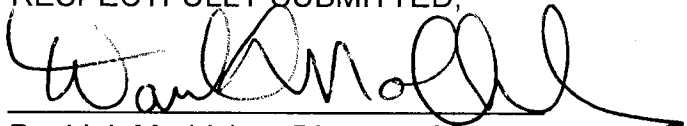
- XI.** The Commission discussed meeting every 2 weeks until this ordinance is finished. It was decided that the Commission will meet 2 hours during the day

and Mr. King will send out a doodle poll to determine the next meeting date and time.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The August 31, 2020 Tree Commission meeting ended at 7:45 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Modricker", written over a horizontal line.

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