

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 1, 2020
5:00 PM

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its public meeting on Thursday, October 1, 2020 via ZOOM. In attendance were:

COMMISSION:

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

STAFF:

Lance King, Arborist
Summer Brown, Recording Secretary
Jenna Wargo, Planning and Zoning Director

Others in Attendance: Laura Dininni, Ferguson Township Resident and BOS member.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Scott Pflumm called the Thursday, October 1, 2020 Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) meeting to order at 10:30 am.

III. SEPTEMBER 21ST MEETING MINUTES

To be approved at the October 19th meeting.

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

V. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mr. Lance King stated that he spoke with Public Works Director, Mr. David Modricker and he has given the until October 19th to provide comments on the ordinance. Mr. King stated that the Commission will have the opportunity to review the ordinance at this meeting, have a final review at the October 19th meeting, and then it will then move on to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. King stated that the heritage tree/significant tree resolution and official Township plant list can be reviewed and commented on by the Commission until November 16th, then it will move on to the Board of Supervisors as well.

Dr. Marc McDill stated that if the Commission is not going to put the time into putting together something they support why is the Commission even wasting any time on it at all. He stated that the current draft is a long way from something he would support. Dr. McDill suggested dropping the preservation ordinance and moving forward with the official Township plant list. Dr. Michael Jacobson agreed with Dr. McDill.

VI. TREE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE REVIEW

Dr. McDill made a motion to drop the tree preservation ordinance and heritage tree resolution and move on to the official Township plant list. Dr.

McDill stated that if the Township wants to do something with the ordinance they can do it without the support of the Commission, Dr. Jacobson seconded the motion, and the motion passed 4 to 0 with Dr. Allyson Muth abstaining.

Mr. Joshua Potter asked if there is a possibility to speak with staff and discuss the time constraint. Mr. Pflumm explained that the tree Commission is only an advisory committee. Dr. Allyson Muth expressed her frustration with the time constraints because there hasn't been enough time for the Commission to do the work. Ms. Laura Dininni, Ferguson Township Board member joined the meeting. Mr. Pflumm explained to Ms. Dininni the deadline the Commission was given. Mr. Pflumm asked the recording secretary to record word for word the following: "Since March we have been working in ZOOM in our meetings because of the pandemic. Township resources have been limited to one zoom channel and we have been limited to starting at 5:30 pm and ending at 6:45 pm. So we have been trying to make progress in basically those increments and we have been taking on additional time to try and pick it up so when ZOOM channels are available we can make progress when it's not being used and we can have a longer time. So the idea that it needs to get wrapped up, if there are safety issues that are a concern or legal issues are a concern that is understandable. To have a time frame for something when there's no legal or safety issues concerned or at risk. And we've been under the constraint of the Township having one zoom channel we have been trying to accommodate that we've been making extra time to fit in additional meetings and they want to end the process at an arbitrary time. We respect their decision."

Ms. Dininni apologized for not attending many of the Tree Commission meetings as she has been sick and busy with other meetings and not because she is not appreciative of the FTTC work. Ms. Dininni stated that she senses some concern that the Commission is not ready to have the ordinance seen by the BOS. Ms. Dininni stated that the process through the BOS is a lengthy one but it does not necessarily mean that the Commission's job is ending she suggested the Commission look at it as another level of review and refinement. Dr. McDill stated that it's a very rough draft, he would put it forward as something the FTTC does NOT support.

Mr. Potter made a motion to clarify staffs guidelines, and that the Commission will pick up this ordinance in the future if the Commission is given adequate time. Mr. Pflumm seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pflumm made a motion that if staff does bring this draft of the ordinance to the BOS it is clearly stated that the FTTC DOES NOT support, Dr. McDill seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. McDill noted that he feels that this Commission has had push back from both the BOS and staff to that point that some Commission members quit.

VII. HERITAGE & SIGNIFICANT TREE ORDINANCE REVIEW – no discussion
VIII. OFFICIAL TOWNSHIP PLANT LIST REVIEW

Dr. McDill suggested going through species by species and suggested and discussing the ones that need to be discussed.

Large Broadleaf Trees

- *Acer x freemanii* - Freeman maple (intentional cross between *A. rubrum* and *A. saccharinum*, becoming widely available in nursery trade.)
- *Acer rubrum*-Red Maple
- *Acer saccharinum*-Silver Maple
- *Acer saccharum*-Sugar Maple
- *Acer truncatum* X *A. Platanoides*-Pacific Sunset Maple
- *Aesculus c. carnea*- red horsechestnut
- *Aesculus glabra*-Ohio Buckeye
- *Betula alleghaniensis* – Yellow birch
- *Betula lenta*-Sweet Birch
- *Betula nigra*-River Birch
- *Betula populifolia* – Gray birch
- *Betula papyrifera*-Paper Birch
- *Carpinus betulus*-European Hornbeam
- *Carya glabra*-Pignut Hickory
- *Carya laciniosa*-Shellbark Hickory
- *Carya ovata*-Shagbark Hickory
- *Carya tomentosa*-Mockernut Hickory
- *Catalpa speciosa*-Catalpa
- *Celtis occidentalis*-Northern Hackberry
- *Cercidiphyllum japonica*-Katsura Tree
- *Cladrastis kentuckea*-American Yellowwood
- *Diospyros virginiana*- American persimmon
- *Eucommia ulmoides*-Hardy Rubber Tree
- *Fagus grandifolia*-American Beech
- *Ginkgo biloba*-Ginkgo
- *Gleditsia triacanthos*-Thornless Common Honeylocust
- *Gymnocladus dioica*-Kentucky Coffee Tree
- *Halesia carolina*-Carolina Silverbell
- *Koelreuteria paniculata*-Golden Raintree
- *Liquidambar styracflua*-Sweetgum
- *Liriodendron tulipifera*-Tulip Tree
- *Magnolia acuminata*-Cucumber Tree
- *Morus rubra* – Red mulberry
- *Nyssa sylvatica*-Blackgum
- *Ostrya virginiana*-American Hophornbeam

- *Oxydendrum arboreum*-Sourwood
- *Platanus X acerifolia*-London Plane Tree
- *Platanus occidentalis*-Sycamore
- *Populus grandidentata*-Bigtooth Aspen
- *Populus tremuloides*- Quaking aspen
- *Prunus sargentii*-Sargent Cherry
- *Prunus serotina*-Black Cherry
- *Prunus serrulata*-Kwanzan Cherry
- *Quercus acutissima*-Sawtooth Oak
- *Quercus alba*-White Oak
- *Quercus bicolor*-Swamp White Oak
- *Quercus coccinea*-Scarlet Oak
- *Quercus imbricaria*-Shingle Oak
- *Quercus macrocarpa*-Bur Oak
- *Quercus muehlenbergi*-Chinkapin Oak
- *Quercus palustris*-Pin Oak
- *Quercus phellos*-Willow Oak
- *Quercus montana*-Chestnut Oak
- *Quercus rubra*-Northern Red Oak
- *Quercus shumardii*-Shumard Oak
- *Quercus velutina* – Black oak
- *Robinia pseudoacacia*- Black Locust
- *Sassafras albidum*-Common Sassafras
- *Tilia americana*-American Linden
- *Tilia cordata*-Littleleaf Linden
- *Tilia tomentosa*-Sterling Silver Linden
- *Zelkova serrata*-Japanese Zelkova

Understory/Small Trees

- *Alnus serrulate* – Smooth Alder
- *Acer pensylvanicum* – Striped maple
- *Amelanchier* sp.-Serviceberry
- *Carpinus caroliniana*-American Hornbeam
- *Cercis canadensis*-Eastern Redbud
- *Cornus alternifolia*-Pagoda Dogwood
- *Cornus amomum*-Silky Dogwood
- *Cornus florida*-Flowering Dogwood
- *Cornus kousa*-Kousa Dogwood
- *Cornus mas*-Cornelian Cherry Dogwood
- *Crataegus phaenopyrum*-Washington Hawthorn
- *Crataegus punctata*-Pioneer Hawthorn
- *Crataegus viridis*-Winter Green Hawthorn

- *Hamamelis virginiana* – Witch-hazel
- *Hamamelis* x (various hybrids) – Witch-hazel
- *Ilex opaca* – American Holly
- *Magnolia-Galaxy Magnolia*
- *Magnolia stellata*-Star Magnolia
- *Magnolia virginiana*-Sweetbay Magnolia
- *Malus* sp.-Crabapple
- *Prunus americana*-Wild Plum
- *Prunus okame*-Okame Cherry
- *Prunus virginiana*-Choke Cherry
- *Rhus glabra*- Smooth sumac
- *Rhus typhina* – Staghorn sumac
- *Salix nigra*-Black Willow
- *Salix sericea*-Silky Willow
- *Sorbus americana* – American mountain-ash
- *Syringa reticulata* -Japanese Tree Lilac

Coniferous trees

- *Abies concolor* – Concolor fir
- *Abies fraseri*-Fraser Fir
- *Juniperus virginiana* – Eastern redcedar
- *Larix laricina*-American Larch (deciduous)
- *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*-Dawn Redwood
- *Picea abies*-Norway Spruce
- *Pinus banksiana* – Jack Pine
- *Pinus bungeana*-Lacebark Pine
- *Pinus flexilis*-Limber Pine
- *Pinus nigra*-Austrian Pine
- *Pinus resinosa*-Red Pine
- *Pinus rigida*-Pitch Pine
- *Pinus strobus*-Eastern White Pine
- *Pinus sylvestris*-Scotch Pine
- *Pinus taeda*-Loblolly Pine
- *Pinus virginiana*-Virginia Pine
- *Taxodium distichum*-Baldcypress
- *Thuja occidentalis* – Northern white cedar

Shrubs

- *Aesculus parviflora*-Bottlebrush Buckeye
- *Alnus serrulata*-Smooth Alder
- *Aronia arbutifolia*-Red Chokeberry

- *Aronia melanocarpa*-Black Chokeberry
- *Azalea* species-Azalea
- *Buxus sempervirens*-English Boxwood
- *Calycanthus floridus*-Sweetshrub
- *Ceanothus americanus*-New Jersey Tea
- *Cephalanthus occidentalis*-Buttonbush
- *Chaenomeles speciose*-Flowering Quince
- *Clethra alnifolia*-Summersweet
- *Corylus americana*-American Hazelnut
- *Cornus amomum*-Silky Dogwood
- *Cornus sericea*-Red-osier Dogwood
- *Cornus stolonifera*-Red Twig Dogwood
- *Cotoneaster apiculate*-Cranberry Cotoneaster
- *Cotoneaster horizontalis*-Rock Cotoneaster
- *Euonymus americanus*- Strawberry bush
- *Hydrangea arborescens*-Smooth Hydrangea
- *Hydrangea quercifolia* – Oakleaf Hydrangea
- *Hypericum prolificum*-St. John's Wort (native)
- *Ilex crenata*-Japanese Holly
- *Ilex glabra*-Inkberry Holly
- *Ilex verticillata*-Winterberry
- *Itea virginica*-Virginia Sweetspire
- *Juniperus chinensis*-Juniper
- *Juniperus horizontalis*-Wiltion Juniper
- *Juniperus virginiana* – Eastern red cedar
- *Kalmia angustifolia*-Sheep Laurel
- *Kalmia latifolia*-Mountain Laurel
- *Leucothoe fontanesiana*-Drooping Leucothoe
- *Lindera benzoin*-Spicebush
- *Myrica pensylvanica*-Northern Bayberry
- *Philadelphus* species-Mockorange
- *Photinia melanocarpa*-Black Chokeberry
- *Photinia pyrifolia*-Red Chokeberry
- *Physocarpus opulifolius*-Ninebark
- *Pieris japonica*-Japanese Pieris
- *Rhododendron catawbiense*-Hybrid Rhododendron
- *Rhododendron maximum*-Rosebay
- *Rhododendron periclymenoides*-Pinxter Flower
- *Rhododendron PJM*-PJM Rhododendron
- *Rhododendron viscosum*-Swamp Azalea
- *Sambucus canadensis*-Common Elderberry
- *Sambucus racemose*-Red Berried Elder
- *Spirea alba* – White Meadowsweet

- *Spirea tomentosa* - Steeplebush
- *Symphoricarpos albus*-Snowberry
- *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*-Coralberry
- *Syringa meryeri*-Meyer Lilac
- *Syringa vulgaris*-Common Lilac
- *Taxus cuspidate*-Japanese Yew
- *Taxus media*-Hicks Yew
- *Vaccinium* species-Blueberries
- *Viburnum acerifolium*-Maple-leaved Viburnum
- *Viburnum X burkwoodii*-Burkwood Viburnum
- *Viburnum dentatum*-Arrowwood Viburnum
- *Viburnum lantanoides*-Hobblebush
- *Viburnum prunifolium*-Blackhaw Viburnum
- *Viburnum recognitum*-Southern Arrow-wood
- *Viburnum opulus*-American Cranberry Bush syn with *V. opulus*

Ground Covers and Vines

- *Celastrus scandens*-Bittersweet
- *Clematis* species-Clematis
- *Hydrangea anomala petiolaris*-Climbing Hydrangea
- *Pachysandra procumbens*-Allegheny spurge
- *Pachysandra terminalis*-Pachysandra
- *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*-Virginia Creeper
- *Rhus aromatica* – Fragrant sumac (cultivar 'Lo-Gro' is used as a ground cover)

Mr. Pflumm suggested adding a rationale to why the Commission is adding or removing species.

IX. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

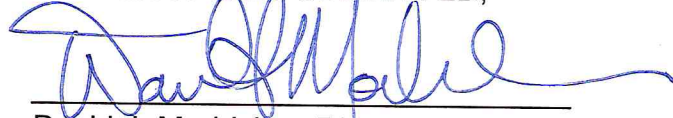
X. **OTHER**

None.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

The October 1, 2020 Tree Commission meeting ended at 12:33 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



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