

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 25, 2021
5:00 PM

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its public meeting on Monday, January 25, 2021 via ZOOM. In attendance were:

COMMISSION:	STAFF:
Scott Pflum	Lance King, Arborist
Marc McDill	David Modricker, Public Works Director
Allyson Muth	Summer Brown, Recording Secretary
Josh Potter	
Mike Jacobson	

Others in Attendance: Randy Hudson, Nittany Valley Environmental Coalition (NVEC).

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Scott Pflumm called the Monday, January 25, 2021 Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

III. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Mr. Lance King opened up nominations for Chairperson. Dr. Marc McDill nominated himself for Chairperson, Dr. Allyson Muth seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. McDill opened up nominations for Vice-chairperson. Dr. McDill nominated Mr. Scott Pflumm for Vice-chairperson, Dr. Michael Jacobson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. McDill nominated Mr. David Modricker to be Secretary, Dr. Jacobson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. NOVEMBER 16TH MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Pflumm made a motion to approve the November 16, 2020 meeting minutes, Dr. McDill seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

None.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mr. Pflumm stated that he sent Commission members the notes from the meeting with Randy Hudson from NVEC which included a couple points on wording in the Tree Preservation ordinance and Heritage Tree ordinance. NVEC is aware that the ordinance is with the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and is not an

action item for the Tree Commission. Mr. King noted that NVEC did send a letter to the BOS and Township Manager. Mr. Pflumm stated that last year there were subcommittees made for education and outreach and plan review. Dr. McDill stated that he would like to see that continue and would like to add that to the FTTC's work plan. Mr. Modricker gave the Commission an update on the status of the tree preservation ordinance. It has gone through the BOS who has recommended it to the Planning Commission (PC) who has reviewed it twice and asked staff to make some revisions. The revisions included changes to enforcement, definitions, and some grammar corrections. Mr. King stated that a large revision is the addition of an exemption for minor subdivision plans.

VII. FTTC 2021 WORK PLAN

Mr. King stated that the Planning and Zoning Director produces a work plan each year for the PC based on goals of the BOS and the PC. The PC reviews and votes on the work plan which is then put in front of the BOS for consent. At the request of Mr. Modricker, Mr. King prepared a work plan for the Commission using the same format as the work plan for the PC. Mr. King went through the work plan with the Commission. The Commission provided comment and was in general agreement with the plan as presented. Dr. McDill provided some comments on the Township website tree page. Dr. McDill provided suggestions on what topics to address during subsequent meetings. The Commission decided to make the topic "outreach and education" a high priority. Dr. McDill moved to approve the work plan, Mr. Josh Potter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed tree canopy coverage. Mr. Modricker and Dr. McDill agreed that GIS Technician Jaymes Progar should be invited to the March meeting to discuss the Commission's desires to review the data and produce work products and reports.

Dr. McDill expressed a desire to collaborate with other authorities, boards, and commissions with the goal of greening the environment. Mr. Modricker suggested and the Commission concurred to dedicate time at one future meeting to meet individuals representing groups involved in sustainability and greening the environment. It was suggested that Peter Buck and Ilona Ballreich of Penn State, and Pam Adams of Centre Region Planning Agency, among others, be invited to attend. Dr. McDill made a motion to schedule a meeting to meet with these three people, Mr. Josh Potter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. URBAN TREE CANOPY EXPANISON CREDIT

Mr. Modricker reviewed the proposed stormwater fee and the associated credit manual and where information can be found on the Township website. Mr. Modricker directed the Commission's attention to the Urban Tree Canopy Expansion Credit portion of the stormwater fee credit manual. Mr. Modricker noted this credit has received favorable feedback.

IX. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King stated that the Township did plant fifty-five bare root trees in November of 2020. The Township's pruning contract for 2020 was completed in December with no issues. The Public Works department is currently grinding stumps from tree removals.

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

XI. OTHER

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The January 25, 2021 Tree Commission meeting ended at 7:15 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



David J. Modricker, Secretary
For the Tree Commission