

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 16, 2021
5:00 PM

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting via ZOOM on Monday, August 16, 2021. In attendance were:

COMMISSION:

Scott Pflumm
Marc McDill
Allyson Muth
Josh Potter
Mike Jacobson

STAFF:

David Modricker, Public Works Director
Summer Brown, Recording Secretary
Al Sam, Arborist
Jaymes Progar, Township GIS

Others in Attendance: None

II. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Marc McDill called the Monday, August 16, 2021 Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

III. JUNE 21ST & JULY 16TH MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Marc McDill called for a motion to approve the June 21st meeting minutes. Mr. Josh Potter stated that small correction needs to be made as the June meeting was held in person. Mr. Pflumm seconded the motion with corrections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. McDill called for a motion to approve July minutes. Mr. Potter stated that there are some tree species that are misspelled. Mr. Pflumm seconded the motion with spelling corrections, and the motion passed unanimously approved with Mr. Potter abstaining from voting as he was absent.

IV. SPECIAL REPORTS

1. Mr. Modricker stated that the first ever heritage tree application will be presented in front of the Board of Supervisors tonight. Mr. Modricker will share the short story that was attached to the application and recommend approval.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. CONTINUATION OF TREE REMOVALS

Township Arborist Mr. Al Sam stated that a good portion of trees were viewed but due to the size of the bus and time constraints, several trees were not viewed. Mr. Sam put together a PowerPoint presentation of the remaining trees. The following trees were discussed and reviewed:

- 1702 Princeton Drive – Declining sugar maple, Mr. Sam is recommending replacement with a fruitless sweet gum.

- 745 Tanager – Replace missing tree with a ginkgo tree.
- 303 Farmstead Lane – Emerald ash borer affected ash tree. Mr. Sam is recommending a Redmond American linden
- 380 Farmstead Lane – Emerald ash borer affected ash tree. Mr. Sam is recommending another Redmond American linden
- 136 W Pine Grove Road – Damaged sassafras in state ROW. Mr. Sam further investigated and PennDOT gave approval for removal. Mr. Sam is recommending not to replace. Dave Modricker will verify Township's responsibility.
- Pine Hall Road – pear trees were lost during storm event. Mr. Sam is recommending replacing with serviceberries
- 106 Red Willow – deceased hackberry, replace with the same.
- 174 Red Willow – nearly dead honey locust. The Commission decided to replace with anything but a honey locust.
- Old Gatesburg and Science Park – Deceased maple. Mr. Sam is recommending to replace with a tulip poplar.
- 1874 Autumnwood – Resident requested a tree. Mr. Sam is recommending a hackberry.
- 2274 Bristol – Resident requested a ginkgo. Dr. McDill stated that there is room for more than one tree at this location.
- 2294 Bristol - Resident requested two Sargent cherries.
- 2368 Saratoga – Mr. Sam stated that the linden at this location was planted too deep and is falling over. He recommended to remove and replace with a hackberry.
- 2499 Harvest Ridge – Storm damaged ash tree. Mr. Sam is recommending to remove and not replace as it is close to the intersection.
- 127 W Chestnut – Resident requested removal of the red pine.
- 1463 & 1406 Curtin – Resident request new trees. Mr. Sam is recommending two larger growing native trees
- 300 Farmstead/Greenleaf Manor – Mr. Sam identified 24 planting opportunities along Circleville Road.

Dr. McDill made a motion to approve the recommended changes as discussed by Mr. Sam tonight, Dr. Michael Jacobson seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. CONSENT AGENDA

None.

2. PARK HILLS PLANT LIST

Mr. Modricker stated that these are the species that the consultant recommended to plant to revegetate the buffer areas of the drainage way. The Commission discussed the species. Mr. Sam stated that he felt the species was good. He recommended more oaks than just the white oak suggested.

3.TREE CANOPY DATA UPDATE

Township GIS Technician, Mr. Jaymes Progar stated that he has worked with the Township's Community Planner Ms. Kristina Aneckstein on the tree canopy data updates. Mr. Progar stated that this is similar to the developments layer but is broken down with specific neighborhoods in mind. Mr. Progar showed the Commission the work so far and asked for more input on how to break it out even more. The Commission discussed the areas and decided they would like to see the following area broken down more. Commercial/Industrial, Agricultural, Public Forest/Game land/DCNR property, Active Farm land, and private forested areas. The Commission would also like to see undeveloped areas in neighborhoods broken down into a specific section. Dr. McDill stated that the Commission would like to see what's driving canopy change and where we have control.

VII. STAFF & COMMITTEE REPORTS

1.PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORTS

None.

2. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. Sam stated that Gypsy Moth has been prevalent this year but the virus that kills the larva came on late and prevented more defoliation. Mr. Sam stated that he has spoken with county officials and the state does not plan on providing funding for spraying in 2022. In addition, Mr. Sam stated that there has been a lot of pruning requests.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE TREE COMMISSION

None.

IX. CALENDAR ITEMS

X. ADJOURNMENT

The August 16, 2021 Tree Commission meeting ended at 7:00 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



David J. Modricker, Secretary
For the Tree Commission