

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 20, 2021
5:00 PM

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting via ZOOM on Monday, September 20, 2021. In attendance were:

COMMISSION:

Scott Pflumm
Marc McDill
Allyson Muth
Josh Potter
Mike Jacobson

STAFF:

David Modricker, Public Works Director-Absent
Summer Brown, Recording Secretary
Al Sam, Arborist

Others in Attendance:

II. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Marc McDill called the Monday, September 20, 2021 Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

III. AUGUST 16TH MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Marc McDill called for a motion to approve the August 16th meeting minutes. Mr. Josh Potter seconded the motion with corrections, the motion passed unanimously.

IV. SPECIAL REPORTS

None.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. None.

NEW BUSINESS

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- **FARMSTEAD LANE LDP**
Mr. Al Sam stated he reviewed the land development and provided one minor comment.
- **ORCHARD SQUARE LDP**
Mr. Sam stated that he reviewed the land development plan and discussed the plant list and choices with Mr. Mark Torretti with Penn Terra.
- **J.L. FARM & CIDERY**
No landscaping plans.

Dr. McDill moved to approve the comments on the development plans and the motion passed unanimously.

3.TREE CARE IN THE STATE ROW PINE GROVE MILLS

Mr. Sam stated that the Commission should be familiar with this topic as it stemmed from the tree that needed removed in Pine Grove Mills. Mr. Sam stated that he has discussed this with the Public Works Director and PennDOT. It was decided that the Township will be responsible for tree maintenance. The Township will need to obtain a general permit for any work being done in PennDOT right-of-way. **Mr. McDill made a motion to recommend the Township obtains a permit for tree work in the ROW, Mr. Potter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.**

4.WEED & GRASS ORDINANCE

Mr. Sam stated that staff has requested the Commission review the Weed & Grass ordinance. The Commission discussed this topic in detail and provided the following comments:

- Noxious Weeds: The two lists available are incorrectly combined. The Commission feels the list from PA Department of Agriculture is more appropriate.
- Suggested the Township review New York's noxious weed list.
- Various typos.
- Timeline for violations needs to be revised.
- Appeal process needs to be described.
- Felt the ordinance was unenforceable as written.

VI. OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Mr. Scott Pflumm & Dr. Allyson Muth reviewed Outreach & Education. The topic for September is "What to do if you want trees planted on your property." The subcommittee engaged the other members of the Commission for a topic for the month of November. Mr. Pflumm suggested a topic pertaining to tree roots/below ground. Mr. Potter suggested "Mycorrhizal fungi". The Commission also discussed the following future topics: "trees increase home values" and "trees mitigate climate effects". Mr. Potter also suggested an article be done on the new arborist once the individual starts.

Mr. Pflumm explained a project the outreach & education subcommittee is working on. The subcommittee would like to partner with Penn State Extensions Future Forest Steward Program.

VII. STAFF & COMMITTEE REPORTS

1.PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORTS- Absent

2. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. Sam stated that his last day of work occurs next week. The new arborist will start October 4th. Mr. Sam noted that several Public Works employees attended bucket truck chainsaw training.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE TREE COMMISSION

None.

IX. CALENDAR ITEMS

October 18th – Tree Removal Public Hearing.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The September 20, 2021 Tree Commission meeting ended at 7:00 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Modricker".

David J. Modricker, Secretary
For the Tree Commission