

TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

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Tree Commission Organizational & Regular Meeting Minutes

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86970986684>

January 17, 2023

5:15 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 5:45pm by Marc McDill.

The following individuals were in attendance:

Marc McDill – Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC)
Mike Jacobson – FTTC
Scott Pflumm – FTTC
Josh Potter – FTTC
Larry Maginnis – staff
David Modricker - staff

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- i. A motion was made by Mike Jacobson to appoint Marc McDill to serve as Chair of the Tree Commission for 2023. Scott Pflumm provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.
- ii. A motion was made by Marc McDill to appoint Scott Pflumm to serve as Vice Chair of the Tree Commission for 2023. Mike Jacobson provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.
- iii. A motion was made by Marc McDill to appoint David Modricker to serve as Secretary of the Tree Commission for 2023. Josh Potter provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

B. ELECTION OF SUBCOMMITTEES

- i. **OUTREACH & EDUCATION** - A motion was made by Marc McDill to appoint Scott Pflumm and Josh Potter to serve as representatives of the Education and Outreach Committee for 2023. Mike Jacobson provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.
- ii. **SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW** - A motion was made by Marc McDill to appoint Marc McDill and Mike Jacobson to serve as representatives of the Subdivision and Land Development Plan Review Committee for 2023. Scott Pflumm provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

C. SET MEETING DATES FOR 2023

Following some discussion, a motion was made by Marc McDill to establish the following meeting dates for 2023 with a start time of 5:30pm:

January 17th (Tuesday in observance of MLK Jr. Day)
February 22nd (Tuesday in observance of President's Day)
March 20th
April 17th
May 15th
June 20th (Tuesday in observance of Juneteenth)
July 17th
August 21st
September 18th
October 16th
November 20th

A second to the motion was provided by Scott Pflumm. The motion passed unanimously.

III. REGULAR MEETING

A. CITIZEN'S INPUT - none

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mike Jacobson to approve the November 21, 2022 meeting minutes of the FTTC. A second to the motion was provided by Marc McDill. The motion passed unanimously.

C. SPECIAL REPORTS - none

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- i. **EDUCATION & OUTREACH** - Scott Pflumm noted that no article was published for the month of December, though he and Josh Potter were working on an article related to landscaping alternatives to mowed grass. *(post-meeting note: David Modricker followed up with Centrice Martin and provided appropriate links to Larry Maginnis to assist with finalizing the article).* Mr. Maginnis prepared an article for January 2023 related to tree emergency responses. Discussion ensued related to QR codes, archived Treebune articles, podcasts, and better understanding the ordinances and Township documents related to native landscaping on private property and green infrastructure (low mow) requests for parkland.

E. NEW BUSINESS

- i. **CONSENT AGENDA** - Nothing to report.
- ii. **2023 FTTC WORK PLAN & GOALS** – The group reviewed the draft work plan and goals for 2023 prepared by the Arborist. An additional item was added “5 year tree plan”. The group discussed time frames to accomplish activities. **A motion was made by Marc McDill to approve the work plan with the additional item and forward the same to the Board of Supervisors for their approval. A second to the motion was provided by Mike Jacobson. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

- iii. **2022 Street Tree Planting Update** – The Arborist reported that he reached out to 8 vendors regarding interest in the tree planting contract which is currently out to bid. Bids are due January 31st. The contract involves planting 38 trees of 10 different species at various locations as shown on the plans. A tree diameter size of 2 ½" is specified in the contract. The planting contract addresses dead and missing trees. Installation specifications were improved to address issues encountered in the past. Larry Maginnis noted he spoke to most all affected property owners who are excited to learn of new street trees to be planted. Aside from this contract, an additional 25 bare root trees (planting opportunities) may be planted in 2023 by the Public Works Department.

F. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Arborist Report** – The Arborist provided an update on the 2022 Street Tree Pruning Contract. Pruning is in progress. 519 trees are being pruned in the Teaberry Ridge neighborhood, Pine Hall Road, Setters Run, and Sunday Drive. Larry Maginnis is on site performing inspections daily. A new door hanger was recently developed by the Arborist. The hanger is placed at the residential house nearest the newly planted street tree and provides information on the new tree and links to other Township arboriculture related information. Cutting Edge Tree Professionals is performing the work. In addition, the Arborist is participating in FTPW scheduling activities for the year to program tree related projects. Treebune articles are being archived. The Township will be recruiting for a full time tree trimmer in 2023. Part time workers are to be hired seasonally. The aerial lift truck was ordered in mid-2022 and delivery is expected within the next few months. David Modricker answered questions related to the cost of street tree pruning.

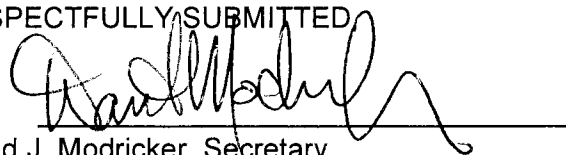
G. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD – Nothing to report.

H. CALENDAR ITEMS

- **February Agenda**
 1. **Urban Tree Canopy Report (tentative)**
 2. **2022 Tree Inventory**
 3. **Ferguson Township Tree Plan Update**

- I. **ADJOURNMENT** – With no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:49pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



David J. Modricker, Secretary
For the Tree Commission