

# TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

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## **Tree Commission Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

**February 21, 2023**

**5:30 pm**

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 5:44 pm 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  
Jenna Wargo – staff

Others in attendance: Mike Vaow, Ferguson Township Resident; Liz Grove, Ferguson Township Resident.

**II. REGULAR MEETING**

**A. CITIZEN'S INPUT** - none

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mike Jacobson to approve the January 17, 2023 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**

- ii. Mr. Pflumm reported that the education and outreach committee will begin meeting monthly on a Monday to better accommodate his schedule. The current article topic pertains to planting native trees and shrubs. (no motion)

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

**i. CONSENT AGENDA**

**a. 125 E pine Grove Road Landscape/Buffer Yard Modification Request**

The Commission spent some time reviewing the planting plan and making suggestions, understanding there may be some relief for the intended use, but there should be more trees, and larger trees, than proposed. The Arborist will finalize the formal review.

**ii. REVIEW 2022 STREET TREE INVENTORY REPORT**

Mr. Maginnis summarized the street tree inventory completed by Penn State students under the guidance of Dr. William Elmendorf. There was much discussion about the makeup of the urban forest, and how to best manage pruning, planting opportunities, and incorporating recommendations into the 5 year tree plan.

**iii. SPONGY MOTH EXERCISE**

Mr. Maginnis noted that Patton Township is arranging the aerial spraying of 1285 acres for Spongy Moth. Ferguson Township shares a common border with much of this spraying. The Ferguson Township Manager has requested we investigate the guidelines and processes of conducting our own egg mass survey and determine thresholds necessary to warrant spraying. Staff is in the process of conducting the survey and will make recommendations to Manager with the possibility of piggy-backing on Patton Township's efforts. There is currently no funding budgeted for this task.

**iv. ARBOR DAY**

The Commission discussed how well received last year's event was. Mr. Maginnis noted he wanted to get an early start on Arbor Day preparations, he wanted to solicit ideas/themes, dates, partners, etc. from the Commission. The Commission decided that the event should be scheduled for Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> at Tudek Park. The Commission members recommended the following things: a shorter tree walk, tree planting that takes place at the beginning of the event, coffee or food truck, work with Snetsinger Butterfly Garden and other groups to diversify things to do. The Commission suggested reaching out to local schools to promote the event.

**v. DISCUSS 2023-2028 TREE PLAN**

Mr. Maginnis discussed the need to update the tree plan now that the new inventory data has been completed. The Commission stated they would like to review objectives to ensure they match the annual work plan. The Commission would like a pie chart added to differentiate the species and tree sizes within the Township. The Commission also recommended this be incorporated into the Tree Canopy Analysis.

**F. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. Arborist Report –**

**G. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD –** Nothing to report.

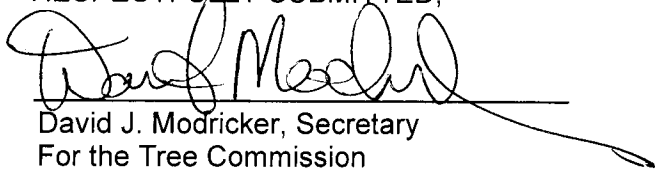
**H. CALENDAR ITEMS**

**• MARCH Agenda**

- 1. FERGUSON TOWNSHIP MARCH TREE PLAN UPDATE**
- 2. ARBOR DAY PLANNING**

**I. ADJOURNMENT –** With no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:17pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



David J. Modricker, Secretary  
For the Tree Commission