

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 16, 2022
5:15 PM

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting via hybrid format on Monday, May 16, 2022. In attendance were:

COMMISSION:

Scott Pflumm
Marc McDill-Absent
Allyson Muth
Josh Potter
Mike Jacobson-Absent

STAFF:

David Modricker, Public Works Director
Summer Brown, Recording Secretary
Larry Maginnis, Township Arborist

Others in Attendance: Dean Dimido, Ferguson Township Resident; Rose S. Litback, Penn State University Student.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Scott Pflumm called the Monday, May 16, 2022 Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) meeting to order at 5:25 pm.

III. CITIZEN'S INPUT

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Pflumm made a motion to approve the April 18, 2022 meeting minutes. Dr. Allyson Muth seconded the motion, Mr. Josh Potter seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

V. SPECIAL REPORTS

None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Mr. Pflumm stated that at the last Tree Commission meeting he noted that Penn State students may be interested in assisting the FTTC with Education and Outreach programs. Ms. Rose Litvak is a second-year student at Penn State University is present and has expressed interest in assisting the FTTC. The Commission spoke with Rose regarding some things she has done with community engagement and trees. Mr. Modricker stated that the Sustainability Institute has approached the Township in the past regarding professor run projects. Ms. Litvak stated that her groups project goal is to tie into community and elementary school children in a more curriculum related setting.

Dr. Muth reviewed the next couple of months of educational articles with the Commission members. Dr. Muth added that Mr. Larry Maginnis has great ideas for education and outreach and has provided great articles and topics.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. CONSENT AGENDA

None.

2. AUTUMNWOOD DRIVE TREE REMOVAL

Mr. Modricker gave the Commission an overview of the tree removal that occurred on Autumnwood Drive and reviewed the process and procedure of illicit tree removal in the Township. Mr. Dean Dimidio homeowner is present at the meeting to discuss possible remediation for this incident.

Mr. Dean Dimidio apologized for the tree removal. Mr. Dimidio stated that the tree is close to his home and very close to his driveway and is a nuisance with the seed pods falling every year. Mr. Dimidio stated that he planted a handful of other trees on his property with no problem and enjoys them. Mr. Dimidio did note that his neighbor has no trees in front of his home. Mr. Dimidio provided photos for the Commission to review. Mr. Dimidio stated that he wasn't aware pruning was a violation because a lot of people in his neighborhood do this action themselves. Mr. Dimidio offered 32 hours of volunteering and is willing to pay for a tree or two to be planted. He feels the possible consequences outlined in the letter he received seemed punitive. The Commission reviewed the current policy and procedure along with the price calculations. The Commission reviewed the volunteer opportunity, the cost of the tree, and how to proceed. The Commission decided that Mr. Dimidio will purchase two balled and burlap trees and use his volunteer time to plant these trees as a solution.

Mr. Scott Pflumm made a motion that the Township enter into a written agreement as per Chapter 25 section 2a that would include 32 hours of volunteer time and the purchase of 2 bare root trees at cost. No fine will be induced. Mr. Joshua Potter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. REPLACE INVASIVE SPECIES

Mr. Maginnis gave an overview of this topic. A Resident reached out to Mr. Maginnis and explained that her contractor informed her that she has multiple invasive species on her property. She is currently having landscape work done and stated that she would remove and replace at her cost. The resident did not specify a location. Mr. Pflumm suggested putting in native species approved by the Township.

VIII. STAFF & COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ARBORIST

Mr. Maginnis stated that the Township has started the tree planting contract and it is going well. Mr. Maginnis noted the he did reconfigure some locations. Mr. Maginnis responded to a large tree that fell across a bike path and this was safely taken care of. Mr. Maginnis invited the Commission members to read and share the most recent mulch volcano article. Mr. Maginnis has seen a lot of this in the area and it is most concerning.

2.PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORTS

None.

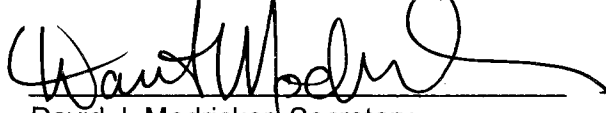
IX. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE TREE COMMISSION

Mr. Potter stated that he will become a part of the education and outreach subcommittee and Dr. Allyson Muth will take a step back.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The April 18, 2022 Tree Commission meeting ended at 7:00 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Modricker", written over a horizontal line.

David J. Modricker, Secretary
For the Tree Commission