

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 28, 2022
5:15 PM**

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting via hybrid format on Monday, February 28, 2022. In attendance were:

COMMISSION:

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

STAFF:

David Modricker, Public Works Director
Summer Brown, Recording Secretary
Larry Maginnis, Township Arborist
Jenna Wargo, Planning Director
Kristina Basset, Community Planner

Others in Attendance:

II. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Marc McDill called the Monday, February 28, 2022 Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) meeting to order at 5:18 pm.

III. CITIZEN'S INPUT

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Marc McDill called for a motion to approve the January 24, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Joshua Potter seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

V. SPECIAL REPORTS

None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Mr. Scott Pflumm stated that the plan is to continue their already existing K-12 program through Penn State Extension. The program is called Future Forest Stewards. Mr. Pflumm stated that the goal is to speak with Larry and get his input, then meet with Parks Committee and see if they would like to collaborate on this program. Dr. Muth gave a brief overview of the program to Mr. Maginnis.

2. PARK HILLS TREE PLANTING PLAN

Mr. Modricker stated that staff is still waiting for the consultant to provide information.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- **ORCHARD SQUARE FINAL LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Mr. Modricker stated that he reviewed this with Mr. Maginnis and explained the land development plan review process. The Commission discussed the landscape buffer and tree species and how to get consultants to diversify species.

- **FARMSTEAD VIEW PRELIMINARY SUBDIVISION PLAN (3RD LOOK)**

Mr. Modricker explained that the developer is filing an appeal for relief from the tree preservation act. Dr. McDill gave some background on this plan to Mr. Maginnis stating that there is a specific interesting tree they would like the developer to save. Mr. Modricker stated that Commission members are more than welcome to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting to speak on this item.

2. STREET TREE INVENTORY

Mr. Modricker stated that staff is looking for feedback from the Commission on the Township entering into an agreement with Penn State students overseen by Dr. Bill Elmendorf to collect street tree inventory data. The work would take place over the summer. The Commission discussed this opportunity. **Dr. McDill moved to recommend that the Township accept the proposal with Penn State and Dr. Elmendorf, Mr. Potter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.**

3. STREET TREE CANOPY DISCUSSION

Mr. Modricker stated that the Commission discussed this tree canopy GIS layer with Jaymes Progar, Township GIS tech last year. Mr. Modricker stated that Staff would like to have discussion between the Commission and Township Community Planner Kristina Basset and Township Planning Director, Jenna Wargo on the Commission on the expectations of the street tree canopy layer.

Dr. McDill stated that there are large areas that are listed as state game land/forest in which the Commission expects no change. Dr. McDill stated that it is important to divide geographically through different trends such as Ag land, Commercial Districts, Residential – neighborhoods new/old, transportation districts. Dr. McDill stated that he would like the Commission to discuss tree canopy goals for planning a livable community, temperature regulation, etc. Dr. McDill stated that the Commission is looking for a GIS layer that will highlight what is really going on with the tree canopy.

Mrs. Basset stated that that she can break it down more, more with neighborhoods new/old, Commercial, Industrial, etc. Mrs. Basset stated that she can use type of zoning uses, they would then be delineated by transportation corridors. Mrs. Basset stated newer neighborhoods, Pine Grove Mills area, Ag lands, outside growth boundary zoned rural agriculture and the Penn State Ag lands. Mrs. Basset also stated that she could do a layer with

and without the game lands/forested areas. Ms. Wargo stated that the layer could also be broken down by income and property value. It was determined that the Commission will reconvene with Mrs. Basset in 3-6 months for an update.

4. GIS STREET TREE DASHBOARD

Mr. Modricker stated that Township GIS tech, Jaymes Progar created this street tree dashboard. Mr. Modricker reviewed the dashboard with the Commission and discussed the possible uses for it.

VIII. STAFF & COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ARBORIST

Mr. Maginnis proposed a “pop up arboretum” at Tudek Park. Mr. Maginnis stated that he went to Tudek and reviewed the area and found several locations that would be great. Mr. Maginnis stated that this pop up arboretum would be a self-guided trail that would highlight 15 trees that have unique attributes. Proposing pop up arboretum – self guided trail not even trying 15 trees unique attributes. Mr. Maginnis stated that this could be used for Arbor Day or just an event to highlight trees in the Township.

Mr. Modricker asked the Commission which day they would like to participate in Arbor Day Friday or Saturday. The Commission decided to participate on Saturday April 30. The events would include the pop up arboretum.

Dr. McDill called for a motion, to participate in Arbor Day on Saturday, April 30, Dr. Muth seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORTS

No report.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE TREE COMMISSION

X. CALENDAR ITEMS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The February 28, 2022 Tree Commission meeting ended at 7:20 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



David J. Modricker, Secretary
For the Tree Commission