

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Monday, August 17, 2015
5:30 pm

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting on Monday, August 17, 2015 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

Commission: Marc McDill, Chairman Troy Bayletts Darlene Weener Jackie Esposito Mike Jacobson	Staff: Lance King, Arborist Dave Modricker, Director of Public Works
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Others in attendance included: Heather Bird, Recording Secretary

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. McDill called the Monday, August 17, 2015 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:39 pm.

III. APPROVAL OF JULY 13, 2015 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND JULY 27, 2015

Ms. Esposito made a motion to APPROVE the July 13, 2015 regular meeting minutes and July 27, 2015 worksession meeting minutes with the following changes:

- July 13th meeting
 - Page 2, Paragraph 6, Line 3 – “have an established and” to “have an established work plan and”
- July 27th meeting
 - Spell out abbreviations for FTTC (Ferguson Township Tree Commission), HOA (Homeowner’s Association), FTPW (Ferguson Township Public Works) and HOP (Highway Occupancy Permit).

Mr. Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. REVIEW ASH TREE REMOVAL AND 2016 PLANTING PLANS FOR THE FOLLOWING STREETS OR NEIGHBORHOODS

Mr. Modricker began by introducing the topic.

Mr. King stated the goal for these neighborhoods is to have fall 2015 tree removal and new tree plantings in spring 2016.

Greenleaf Manor

Mr. King stated the map provided with the agenda showed in red which ash trees are recommended for removal and the replacement tree recommendation. The green trees indicated on the map are also ash trees that at this time will not be removed.

Mr. McDill stated that on a future agenda he would like to look at Township diversification of trees. He would not recommend planting any further red maple trees because the Township already has a fair amount of these.

Mr. Jacobson stated the plan looks good and he asked about planting sweet gums and if people like those. Mr. King stated that he would specify fruitless for the tree order, sometimes these do produce fruit in the future.

Mr. McDill suggested planting fruited species along Farmstead Lane because no homes are located in this area. He would like to see the tree planting plan include areas that could be planted with use fruited trees.

Mr. Weener stated the plan looked good.

Lexington Place (Charleston Drive)

Mr. King stated this is another development with ash trees that are not receiving treatment. The map provided indicated those ash trees to be removed and replaced. This neighborhood also had two dead honey locusts that will be replaced.

Mr. McDill asked if the Borough of State College had disease issues with hearty rubber trees which are listed as a replacement tree for this area. Mr. King stated he would talk to Mr. Al Sam about the hearty rubber trees.

Stable Hill, Chestnut Ridge Manor, Cobble Creek Manor

Mr. King stated the Township has agreements for ash tree treatment in all three of these neighborhoods. The map provided indicated treatments recommended for 2016 as well as the removals planned.

Mr. Jacobson asked if the ginkgo trees would be fruitless males. Mr. King stated he would specify that.

Mr. McDill stated the Commission should invite Mr. Mark Noel of Chestnut Ridge Manor to the September meeting to discuss the removal and plantings in Chestnut Ridge Manor. Mr. King stated that the public hearing would approve the removal of the trees and then there will be time to look at plantings before spring 2016. Mr. McDill stated that both the removal and plantings should be discussed at the public hearing.

Mr. King stated Cobble Creek Manor's (Shellers Bend) map included three different recommendations located within one map: removals, treatments and trees to remain intact. In this neighborhood one side of the street has an agreement for treatment while the other side does not.

McDill asked why the plan included planting sassafras. Mr. King stated that his plan for diversity included planting some smaller trees in areas as well.

Ms. Weener stated Shellers Bend has lots of room and it may not be the best place to plant smaller trees.

Mr. Bayletts stated this area is also full sun.

Mr. McDill stated he would prefer to keep sassafras trees for areas that a smaller tree is needed.

Mr. King stated he can switch up the tree plantings for this area.

Mr. McDill suggested keeping three to four species in this area. Mr. King stated he can remove the sassafras and diversify the remaining three species for the street. Mr. McDill stated to mix up with four species and use the rain tree, black locust, horse chestnut and saw tooth oaks. Mr. Jacobson stated he likes a thick canopy and lots of diversity.

Random Plantings throughout Township

Mr. King stated the full planting map included the neighborhoods discussed above as well as the trees in parks that need removed, and various other trees recommended for removal, mainly dead, located in the Township right-of-way. Mr. King has a list of proposed replacements for these trees and he will forward that on to the Commission.

Ms. Esposito stated that Park and Recreation's primary focus is to plant native trees in the parks.

Ms. Weener asked if the hazard trees included were from the completed Bill Elmendorf inventory. Mr. King stated that no these were reported by individuals. Mr. King stated that Mr. Elmendorf's removals as indicated in the inventory are outdated because some of the removals have already been completed and some of those trees still look fine. Mr. McDill stated he knows of a couple trees located in Saybrook that are dead. Mr. King stated that he will attempt to include those in this removal process.

The Commission thanked Mr. King for his work.

V. PUBLIC HEARING FOR TREE REMOVALS

The Commission decided to hold the two public hearings in October on Tuesday, October 13th and Tuesday, October 20th at 6:30 pm in the main meeting room.

- October 13th meeting will be for Greenleaf Manor and Lexington Drive (Charleston Drive)
- October 20th meeting will be for Chestnut Ridge Manor, Stable Hill, Cobble Creek, Shellers Bend and other single tree removals

The Commission would like a letter sent to the property homeowners notifying them of the tree removal as well as to tag the trees with notice of tree removal and replacement.

VI. INTERFACES BETWEEN THE TREE COMMISSION, THE PLANNING COMMISSION, THE ZONING REVIEW BOARD AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mr. Modricker reviewed these interfaces. The Board of Supervisors appoints the members of the Authorities, Boards and Commissions. The Tree Commission's interface with the Planning Commission would be when the Tree Commission reviewed and commented on a land development plan. Those comments will be included in the information that is presented to the Planning Commission. Mr. McDill and Ms. Weener would like to be the subcommittee for review of small land development plans.

VII. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King presented a report to the Commission on his activities since the last meeting.

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- invite Mr. Mark Noel from Chestnut Ridge Manor to discuss the tree removal and planting plan.
- review new Cobble Creek Manor map
- review miscellaneous removal map and replacements
- recommendations on Thistlewood street trees
- begin review of ordinance and resolutions

IX. MEETING DATE AND TIME

The next meeting will be held on September 21, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the August 17, 2015 regular Tree Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission