

Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC)

Date May 15, 2017

Meeting Agenda

Time 5:30pm

Call to Order

April 17th Meeting Minutes

The FTTC shall review and approve the minutes from the March meeting.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Control

Resident Lee Greci will be in attendance. He requests that Ferguson Township order the treatment or removal of Hemlocks on his neighbor's property that are infested with Woolly Adelgid. Lee has a proactive treatment program for the Hemlocks on his property. The neighboring property owner does not. Lee feels this is detrimental to his trees. FTTC shall discuss and provide a recommendation.

2017 Contract Updates

The Arborist will provide an update on the tree planting contract and oak wilt treatment contract.

Arbor Day 2017

The Arborist will provide feedback from the event and answer questions. FTTC should provide recommendations for the 2018 event.

Outreach and Education

The FTTC should discuss topics or ideas for short stories for the upcoming e-newsletters and other outreach.

Arborist report:

The Arborist will review work activities and plan reviews since the last meeting.

Communications to Commission Members

This is an opportunity for FTTC members to report on any contact by residents regarding FTTC matters.

Future agenda items

2017 Pruning Contract, 2018 Additional Planting Opportunities, FTTC Tree Tour

Other

Next meeting date and time is June 19th at 5:30pm

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Monday, April 17, 2017
5:30 pm

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting on Monday, April 17, 2017 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

Commission: Mark McDill, Chairman
Howard Fescemyer, Vice Chairman
Mike Jacobson
Jerry Learn

Staff: Lance King, Arborist
David Modricker, Director of Public Works

Others in attendance: Carl Troutman

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fescemyer called the Monday, April 17, 2017 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 20 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Jacobson made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2017 meeting. Mr. Learn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. RESIDENT REQUESTED TREE REMOVALS

Mr. King introduced Mr. Carl Troutman to the Ferguson Township Tree Committee (FTTC). Mr. Troutman has requested that a pin oak that is on the property next to his property on Oxford Circle be removed. The Township did not plant the tree but the tree is in the Township right of way. Mr. Troutman expressed a concern that the pin oak is hindering the growth and welfare of a blue spruce that is located on his property. The FTTC members question the actual affect that the pin oak is having on the blue spruce. Mr. Troutman says he has obtained his neighbors permission verbally that he could remove the tree. Mr. Modricker reviewed the process for obtaining a permit to have a tree removed in accordance with the current Township tree ordinance. Mr. Modricker also stated that typically the FTTC is interested in preserving trees in the Township right of way. Mr. King said that the FTTC would discuss the matter and he would get back in touch with Mr. Troutman with their decision. The FTTC feels that the request to remove the oak tree does not meet the criteria to obtain a permit for removal. Mr. Nate Miller is another resident that would like to have a permit to remove four red maples on a property he is in the process of purchasing. Mr. Miller could not attend tonight's meeting and will attend a meeting in the future to discuss the removal of the maples. Based on information presented by the arborist, the FTTC was not in favor of removing the maple trees.

V. LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. King asked for a member of the FTTC to volunteer to review land development plans to replace former member Troy Bayletts. Mr. Learn volunteered to review the land development plans. Mr. McDill offered to assist Mr. Learn.

VI. 2017 CONTRACT UPDATES

Mr. King told the FTTC that Mr. Behrer placed PA one calls to mark tree planting locations and he will start planting trees in the next two weeks. Oak wilt treatment will start at the end of April or beginning of May. The contractor is waiting for leaf out to start treatment.

VII. ARBOR DAY 2017

Mr. King updated the FTTC that everything is on track for the Arbor Day Celebration. Mr. Steve Miller will be there to give the proclamation and a DCNR representative will present the Tree City USA award at the event. Suggestions for having water, fruit and granola bars available for the volunteers were made by the FTTC members.

VIII. OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Mr. King asked for ideas from the FTTC for short stories for the next few upcoming e-newsletters. Tree City USA was the first topic that was suggested for the first short story in May. Mr Fescemyer said he would think on ideas and let Mr. King know.

IX. FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE PLAN

Mr. King gave the FTTC the finalized copy of the tree plan. Each member of the FTTC approved the plan and signed the copy of the plan. The finalized plan has been adopted and will be available on the website.

X. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King performed a few PA One calls for the trees being planted at the Township building and the planting of the buffer area on Township property accessed from Owens Drive behind the Waffle Shop. The planting will occur the following week by the Township's public works crew. Mr. Learn asked if the FTTC was still interested in a walk-through of the Township property accessible from Owens Drive located behind the Waffle Shop. Mr. McDill suggested that the FTTC recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the area behind the Waffle Shop along Blue Course Drive be turned into a park.

Mr. King will start mowing the Township's right of ways and other Township property. The FTTC asked if Mr. King would be mowing, or overseeing the mowing crew. Mr. King stated he will be doing both. The FTTC stated that this does not seem like a good use of his time.

Mr. King has been asked by the president of the Pennel Chapter to serve as the certification liaison to the ISA. Mr. Scott Sjolander is slowly leaving that position and all classes that go through Pennel that have continuing education credits for ISA will have to be approved by Mr. King.

Mr. Fescemyer asked if there was still an interest in getting together with Harris Township to discuss tree matters. Mr. McDill will check his schedule and get back to the FTTC on a date for a meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the April 17, 2017 Tree Commission regular meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission