

Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC)

Date June 19, 2017

Meeting Agenda

Time 5:30pm

Call to Order

May 15th Meeting Minutes

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

Resident Requested Tree Removal

Annie Donchez resident on Cherry Ridge Rd requests the removal of two crab apples in front of her property. The trees in recent years have been trimmed, treated, etc. but the appearance is not to her satisfaction and the trees shed leaves throughout the summer. Trees appear to be infected with Apple Scab. FTTC shall make a recommendation. Trees may be viewed at the July tree tour if needed.

The Heights Tree Removal

Yonder Mountain Conservation(landscape contractor for The Heights) has requested the removal of a small shingle oak on Northwick Blvd. The tree under normal circumstances would be removed in the fall and replaced in the spring of 2018. The Heights has requested the tree be removed now by its contractor for aesthetics, and then replaced in the spring per normal operations. FTTC shall recommend approval or denial of the removal.

2017 Pruning Contract

The Arborist will provide maps of the proposed pruning areas for the 2017 contract. Also provided will be the first draft of the township pruning blocks for use in future pruning contracts.

Outreach and Education

The FTTC should discuss topics or ideas for short stories for the upcoming e-newsletters and other outreach. FTTC members may volunteer to write these articles if desired.

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

2018 Additional Planting Opportunities, 2017 tree removals, 2018 operating budget

Other

Next meeting date and time is July 17, 2017 at 5pm for the tree tour

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Monday, May 15, 2017
5:30 pm

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its regular meeting on Monday, May 15, 2017 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

Commission: Howard Fescemyer, Vice Chairman
Darlene Chivers
Jerry Learn

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

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fescemyer called the Monday, May 15, 2017 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

III. APPROVAL OF APRIL 17 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Learn made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2017 meeting. Ms. Chivers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID CONTROL

Mr. King told the Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) that Mr. Lee Greci will not be in attendance for this tree commission meeting. Mr. King told the FTTC that Mr. Lee Greci has been treating the hemlocks on his own property for woolly adelgid. Mr. Greci's neighbor, who also has hemlocks on his property, has not been treating those trees. Mr. Greci feels that due to the lack of treatment by his neighbor the spread of the disease on his own trees is not getting any better and he has to spend more money to keep up the treatment of his trees. Mr. Greci was going to attend the meeting to ask Ferguson Township to enforcement the nuisance section of the tree ordinance and compel his neighbor to begin treatment. The neighbor has gone ahead and treated his hemlocks without Township intervention. As of this time the situation has resolved, however the FTTC should discuss the issue and how this type of issue might be handled in the future if the situation presents again. Mr. Modricker and Mr. King reviewed the ordinance for the FTTC regarding Nuisance by Disease or Pest (Chapter 25, Ordinance 991). Going forward if resident contacts Mr. King regarding a potential diseased tree(s), Mr. King will look at the affected tree(s) and report his finding to the FTTC. The FTTC will review Mr. King's findings and make a recommendation if treatment should be enforced. The arborist will then take the necessary steps to deal with the issue from that time forward. The FTTC would like to know how many hemlock trees are in the growth boundary in Ferguson Township. There is a concern that the woolly adelgid may spread like the emerald ash borer and many hemlocks will be lost if a large amount of hemlocks exists in the Township.

V. 2017 CONTRACT UPDATES

Mr. King gave the FTTC an update of the planting contract to be completed within the next week. Mr. Behrer is currently planting the trees along the Blue Course Drive median. Mr. Learn asked if all the trees were being planted at once or if it was in phases. Mr. King said that the majority would

be planted all at once but after reviewing the placement of the current planting there may be room to plant a few more in the coming years. Ms. Chivers commented that the trees that are being planted already look great in the median.

Mr. King will be in contact with Bartlett about commencing the oak wilt treatment.

The pruning contract will start to be complied over the next few months. Mr. King will go out and look at trees that need to be pruned this year.

VI. ARBOR DAY 2017

Mr. Fescemyer gave his review of the Arbor Day activities. He said that he was sore but felt very accomplished. Several of the Township employees and board members attended the day's activities. Mr. King said that the event was well attended. Mr. King showed the FTTC the new signs and banners that were given to the for Tree City USA. The new Tree City USA signs have already been placed near the "Welcome to Ferguson Township" signs that greet motorists as they enter the Township. Mr. King was interviewed by WTAJ for the Arbor Day event. Mr. King asked the FTTC for input regarding activities for future Arbor Day celebrations. Ms. Chivers would like to see it remain on a Saturday to make it more family friendly. Mr. King said that he did receive a few comments from Township staff and residents that they would like to see more activities for younger children.

VII. OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Mr. Fescemyer needs to check with Diana Griffith for deadlines for future e-newsletters for tree stories. One idea for a future story is the impact of trees on property value. Mr. Modricker suggested that Mr. Fescemyer contact Dr. William Elmendorf for input on the story. Ms. Chivers suggested a story about the importance of proper tree pruning techniques. Ms. Chivers volunteered to write the story for the June e-newsletter.

VIII. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King updated the FTTC on the effects that the May 1st severe storm had on Ferguson Township trees had on May 1, 2017. Eight street trees were totally lost, and multiple trees sustained damage. Ferguson Township did not sustain as much damage as other areas in the Centre Region. Mr. Learn questioned if any oak trees sustained damage that would be a cause for concern due to the concern about oak wilt disease. Mr. King said that he has not seen any oak trees that belong to the Township that give him any reason to suspect an issue. He does not inspect private property trees. Residents can contact him if they suspected a tree has contracted oak wilt due to storm damage.

Mr. King reported on his activities as the certification liaison for the Pennsylvania Delaware (PennDel) chapter of the ISA.

Mr. King inspected the trees from the 2016 tree-planting contract and there were only four trees that died. Those four trees have already been replaced in Chestnut Ridge Manor.

There is a meeting in June regarding the large oak at the Tudek farm house that Mr. King, Mr. Modricker and Mr. David Pribulka (Township Manager) will be attending with Centre Region Parks and Recreation.

Mr. King has also been working on items for the Capital Improvement Budget that include a resistograph and a new bucket truck.

Mr. King said that Chestnut Ridge Manor HOA has contacted him regarding the damage to trees in Chestnut Ridge Manor due to the severe storm and wanted to know if those trees could be replaced this year. The replacement trees will be planned for next year. The trees in question for Chestnut Ridge Manor HOA are the hybrid maples that were damaged.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

No communications to commission members.

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. King told the FTTC that there are some funds in the budget for new planting opportunities. Ms. Chivers said it would be a good idea to look for new planting areas on the July 2017 Township Tree Commission drive around.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the May 15, 2017 Tree Commission regular meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission

From: Annie Doncsecz <azd1@psu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 8:45 AM
To: King,Lance
Cc: jjd7@psu.edu
Subject: Tree request

June 6, 2017

Lance A. King
Township Arborist
Ferguson Township

Dear Lance, We are writing you today to request the issue of the crab apple street trees at 108 Cherry Ridge Road be added to the next Ferguson Township Tree Commission agenda. We first discussed these trees in June 2016, when we requested permission to treat and fertilize them. For the past few years leaves on the trees became yellow, spotted and dropped starting in early June and the trees were bare by August. You approved the plan, and the trees received four treatments in 2016 to 2017 from our provider Trugreen. This season the trees had minimum blossoms, less than 10% of the blossoms they had in previous years. And though the trees started full of green healthy looking leaves, last week (first week of June) the leaves started turning yellow, spotted and dropping. It appears the treatment and fertilizer did not save these trees. In their current state the trees are unattractive and dirty (dropping diseased leaves spring and summer.) Additionally, the trees have a substantial root structure that is lifting the sidewalk. All of which decrease the appearance, value, and safety of the property. We are asking that the Tree Commission consider our request to have these trees removed and if possible replaced with a different species more disease resistant. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to discuss further.

Thank you for your consideration,

Annie and Joe Doncsecz
(814) 404-4151
108 Cherry Ridge Road
State College, PA 16803

Garden

Managing apple scab on ornamental trees and shrubs

Rebecca Koetter and Michelle Grabowski

Importance

Apple scab is a very common disease, and one of the most aesthetically damaging diseases of several ornamental trees and shrubs in Minnesota. The main symptoms of the disease are leaf and fruit spots. Very susceptible trees become defoliated by mid-summer, which weakens the trees over time.

Pathogen and host plants

Scab is caused by the fungus *Venturia inaequalis*. This fungal pathogen infects several host species including crabapples and apples (*Malus* spp.), mountain ash (*Sorbus* spp.), pear (*Pyrus communis*) and Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster* spp.). A unique trait of this fungus is that it is composed of several host specific strains that cause scab on one plant genus but not on any other. For example, the strain of *V. inaequalis* that infects mountain ash will only infect nearby mountain ash trees and will not infect crabapple trees. However, the fungal strain infecting either crabapple or apple can infect both apple or crabapple trees because the trees are in the same genus.



M. Grabowski, UMN
Extension

Apple scab infections are initially olive green with fringed edges

Identification

- Velvety, mostly round olive-green spots up to 1/2 inch across, with feathery-looking borders.
- With age, spots turn dark brown to black, enlarge and grow together, generally along leaf veins.
- Infection on newly-forming leaves causes curling and puckering.
- Severely affected leaves yellow and drop by mid-summer.
- Infected fruit have olive-green spots that turn brown and corky with time.
- Severely infected fruit may be deformed and cracked.



M. Grabowski, UMN
Extension

Older infections turn black, leaves turn yellow and fall off

Biology

The apple scab fungus overwinters on fallen diseased leaves. In spring, the fungus forcibly ejects spores into the air from the fallen leaves. These spores are carried by wind to newly developing leaves, flowers, fruit or green twigs. Spores need several hours of moisture on the plant surface in order to start new infections. Infections grow into spots or blotches that are capable of producing new spores within 9-17 days. These spores are spread by wind and splashing rain or irrigation throughout the canopy or to neighboring trees, initiating new infections. This cycle can repeat many times throughout the growing season whenever leaves remain wet for a sufficient number of hours. Warm rainy weather in the spring and summer results in repeated disease cycles and increases the severity of the disease.

Severely infected leaves turn yellow and drop prematurely, weakening the tree. Several years of early leaf loss can result in decreased growth, reduced bloom and increased susceptibility to winter injury.

Management

Resistant cultivars

Disease resistance is the most effective strategy for managing scab of flowering crabapples. Several crabapple cultivars have been developed over the years that are hardy in Minnesota and include not only scab resistance but also beautiful flower color, graceful form and bright fruit that add to the element of winter interest. The following list highlights several cultivars that have shown strong resistance and are tolerant of Minnesota's low winter temperatures (Table 1).

Table 1. List of scab resistant crabapple trees that are hardy in Minnesota

Crabapple trees resistant to scab			
'Adams'	'Donald Wyman'	Molten Lava™	'Royal Beauty'
'Adirondack'	Firebird®	<i>M. floribunda</i>	'Tina'
'Baskatong'	Harvest Gold®	<i>M. halliana</i> var. <i>parkmanii</i>	'Sargent'
'Bob White'	'Indian Magic'	'Prairie Maid'	'Silver Moon'
'Candymint'	'Indian Summer'	'Prairiefire'	'Strawberry Parfait'
Coralburst®	'Jewelberry'	'Purple Prince'	<i>Malus x zumi</i>
Christmas Holly™	Lollipop®	Red Jewel™	'Calocarpa'
'David'	'Louisa'	'Robinson'	



M. Grabowski, UMN Extension

Infected leaves scattered on the lawn below a crabapple tree

Cultural control

- For control of apple scab on apple and edible crabapple cultivars, see the [IPM guide for home apple growers](#).
- Rake up and destroy fallen leaves before the first snowfall to eliminate locations where the fungus can survive to re-infect the plant the following growing season.
- Alternatively, leaves can be chopped with a mulching lawn mower. Fall lawn fertilizer applications will further encourage the breakdown of these leaves. In mulched areas, urea can be applied to chopped leaf litter to encourage decomposition.
- Do not overcrowd plants – use size at maturity as a spacing guide.
- Prune crabapple trees so that the branches are spaced well enough apart from each other so that air can move through the trees and dry the leaves quickly.
- Remove vigorous upright suckers and water sprouts that have formed along the main trunk or within the canopy in order to improve air movement and sun penetration. This will help leaves to dry quickly after rain or dew.

Fungicides

Fungicides must be applied preventively to successfully manage apple scab. Because spores are released so early in the growing season, fungicide sprays must begin when the first green leaf tips emerge in spring. Sprays should be repeated until petal drop for crabapple. If the tree is healthy and free of leaf spots at this point, further treatments are unnecessary.

Check fungicide labels for the recommended spray interval. Most labels offer a range of days to wait before spraying again. (e.g. 7 to 10 days after spraying, you will need to spray again). Several factors affect what spray interval is most appropriate. In plantings where there was a severe scab infection the previous year, use the shortest interval. In plantings where scab has not been a problem, a longer interval will probably give adequate protection. In addition, if the weather is dry the longer interval is acceptable, whereas during rainy weather the shorter interval is preferable.

Once leaf spots appear in the tree, fungicides provide very little control of disease. There is no point in spraying an already heavily infected tree. Contact a certified arborist to apply fungicides to large trees. Chemical treatments are listed in the table below.

The name of the plant being treated **MUST BE LISTED** on the fungicide label or the product cannot be used! Some products are registered for use on ornamental crabapples but are not safe to use on crabapple or apple fruit intended for human consumption. Always completely read and follow all instructions on the fungicide label.

Active ingredient	Representative Trade Names*
Tebuconazole	Bayer Advanced Disease Control for Roses, Flowers and Shrubs
Myclobutanil	Spectracide Immunox
Captan	Bonide Captan
Chlorothalonil	Bonide Fungonil, Ortho Garden Disease Control
Propiconazole	Bonide Infuse
Mancozeb	Bonide Mancozeb
Sulfur/lime sulfur**	Safer Brand Garden Fungicide
Neem oil**	Garden Safe Fungicide3
Copper#	Bonide liquid Copper

*Trade names are for demonstration purposes only and do not imply endorsement by UMN Extension. Trade names may change over time. Products with the same active ingredient but different trade names should offer disease control as well.

**Burning of plant tissue may be observed especially in times of high heat.

#Russetting of fruit may occur with use of copper products.