

Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC)

Date June 17, 2019

Meeting Agenda

Time 5:30pm

Call to Order

May 20th Meeting Minutes

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

FTTC Land Development Review Process

Ferguson Township Planning and Zoning Staff will be in attendance at the meeting to discuss the FTTC role in the review of land development plans.

Pine Hall Master Plan Review

The FTTC has requested a discussion on the Pine Hall Master plan. Ferguson Township Planning and Zoning Staff will be in attendance to assist with facilitating this discussion.

Orchard View Land Development Review

The Chairman has requested that the FTTC review this plan at the meeting and produce comments to be included in the review process.

Tree Preservation Ordinance

The FTTC shall further discuss the tree preservation ordinance and determine if funding for a consultant should be requested in the 2020 budget.

Public Education and Outreach

The FTTC shall discuss public education and outreach by the commission. Discussion items include public engagement, information delivery, funding.

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

Tree Preservation Ordinance, SALDO/Zoning Update, Stormwater Fee

Other

Next meeting date and time is July 15th at 5:00pm for the township tree tour

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, May 20, 2019
5:30 PM**

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its public meeting on Monday, May 20, 2019 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

COMMISSION:

Howard Fescemyer, Chairperson
Darlene Chivers, Vice-Chairperson
Scott Pflumm

STAFF:

Lance King, Arborist
David Modricker, Public Works Director
David Pribulka, Manager

Others in attendance were: Summer Krape recording secretary, and Wes Glebe, resident.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Fescemyer called the Monday, May 20, 2019 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:32 pm

III. APRIL 15TH MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Fescemyer and seconded by Ms. Chivers to approve the April 15, 2019 meeting minutes with no corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. TREE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

Dr. Fescemyer stated he did not want to spend too much time on the Tree Preservation Ordinance tonight as he hasn't spent a lot of time working on it and the Commission is missing members. Dr. Fescemyer asked Mr. Pflumm and Ms. Chivers if they saw the email from Dr. Bill Elmendorf about scheduling a meeting to go over some example ordinances. Dr. Fescemyer reported that Dr. Elmendorf suggested that the Ferguson Township Tree Commission look at Bucks and Montgomery County tree ordinances as they are good examples. Dr. Fescemyer wants the commission to follow up on those counties ordinances. Ms. Chivers will follow up by reviewing and distributing the Montgomery County tree ordinances and Mr. Pflumm will follow up with Bucks County as he has already started to look into the tree ordinances of that county. The group also discussed gathering other ordinances from other states. Mr. Modricker stated that he also reached out to Dr. Elmendorf to see if he was able or had interest in helping to actually craft the ordinance. Unfortunately he is unable to assist. Ms. Chivers asked Mr. Pribulka, Township Manager some questions regarding using tree preservation ordinances from other states. Mr.

Pribuilka stated that Pennsylvania is unique because timbering and forestry are permitted uses by right and they will just need to be mindful of this fact. Dr. Elmendorf stated to the commission that they may want to make an ordinance for tree preservation and one that deals with forestry. Mr. Modricker asked (given the time constraints with this) and the fact that he is working on the 2020 capital improvement budget, if the Tree Commission is interested in requesting funding for a consultant to assist with crafting a tree ordinance. Ms. Chivers stated to the group that she personally sees merit in considering the request for the consultant. Mr. Pflumm asked Mr. Modricker when the deadline would be to get the funding request in and it was decided that the commission will need to have it ready by June. Ms. Chivers stated she would like us to focus on the tree preservation/protection first and then the timbering ordinance if that is the next logical step. Dr. Fescemyer stated he will make an outline of the tree preservation ordinance for the next meeting.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Since Mr. Modricker needs to leave early to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting Dr. Fescemyer wanted to jump to the future agenda items before he leaves.

This is concerning the Pine Hall and Harner Farm land development plans. Dr. Fescemyer stated that the commission should not discuss these items tonight because the topics were not advertised on the agenda in advance.

Mr. Fescemyer noted that the Tree Commission was consulted regarding the Pine Hall master plan on June 18, 2018 and made some recommendations that were noted in the minutes, the following meeting in August Dr. Fescemyer asked if there was anything more and nothing was brought to the commission's attention. The Tree Commission was not aware of the component of the zoning ordinance regarding the preservation of 40% of trees. It was not discussed, staff did not bring it up, and if they did the commission did not understand. Dr. Fescemyer wants to know how the commission should proceed with this issue. Mr. Modricker recommended that if the Tree Commission wants to look at this plan again to put it on a future agenda. He also stated the commission needs to be cautious if they comment on elements of the zoning ordinance and not necessarily the tree ordinance nor responsibilities of the Tree Commission. Mr. Modricker also stated that they can make any comment they want to make, it is their prerogative, but know it might cause conflict with the zoning officer. Mr. Modricker suggested that the chairman may want to request a meeting with Jeff Ressler, Zoning Administrator and Lindsay Schoch, the Interim Planning and Zoning Director to discuss the matter.

Dr. Fescemyer stated the next thing he wanted to go over was the Harner Farm single family housing development plan Dr. Fescemyer would like to put the review of the Harner farm single family housing plan on the June 17th meeting agenda. Mrs. Lindsay Schoch stated that she will be able to take the commission's

comments at that time.

VI. TREE CANOPY SURVEY

Mr. King stated that this was discussed at the last meeting and it was determined that Ferguson Township staff did not have the time or resources to do this project. Mr. King contacted The Davey Resource Group and they do not do this in this area, The University of Vermont did not respond, and he also contacted Plan-It Geo in Denver, Colorado and has spoken with them multiple times. They provided Mr. King a \$34,000 proposal for the project. The project includes classifying all of the current canopy, and performing a canopy assessment based on historical data from 2008, the scope also includes quantifying the economic benefits of the canopy in the report. Mr. King reported that our GIS should be able to overlay the tree canopy data on the township zoning maps and differentiate by zoning districts, neighborhoods, land use, water sheds etc. Mr. King asked if the Commission is in favor of moving forward. The commission was in favor.

VII. SALDO/ZONING 6TH DRAFT

Dr. Fescemyer stated he received the 6th draft while he was on vacation. The SALD/Zoning discussion was tables until the next meeting so the whole commission has more time to look over it.

VIII. LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW FOR FTPW BUILDING AND ES 382

The Tree Commission previously made comments on the Ferguson Township Public Works Building land development plan and the Sheetz (ES 382) land development plan. Dr. Fescemyer noted that Mr. King suggested the developer plant white pine instead of Japanese pine. Mr. King also recommended that something other than the Japanese black pine be planted. He suggested Red Pine or Virginia Pine. Both the Tree Commission and Mr. King suggested planting street trees along Whitehall Road.

IX. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King stated he has reviewed quite a few land development plans. Due to the weather and rain they were only able to finish half of the plantings for Arbor Day but got a lot of work done. Mr. King stated they had a good turn out with a total of 20 people. They are planting the pollinator plants/trees this Thursday May 23, 2019 from 4:30-6:30 pm with the Ferguson Township Elementary Environmental Club. The Urban Forestry Intern, Donnie Coffee, has been working on tree inventory and has covered a lot of ground, and he is hopeful that this will continue for the rest of the season. This past week the arborist has been working on specifications for a new bucket truck for the Township. Landscape laborers started

for the summer so Mr. King has been getting them organized. The Haymarket Park basin pollinator project will start in the next week so Mr. King will need to install informational signs. Mr. Chivers asked who would be installing this and Mr. King stated that the US Fish and Wildlife will be doing the work.

X. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mr. Pflumm wanted to let the commission know that Wes Glebe approached him regarding the 40% tree preservation issue in the Pine Hall Land Development Plan at the Stormwater Advisory Committee meeting and he invited him to attend the Tree Commission meeting. Mr. King also wanted to let Mr. Pflumm know he has been contacted by a lot of homeowners in Stonebridge regarding planting more trees next year. He has also been contacted by HOA board member in reference to planting trees in front of HOA owned properties. Mr. King also stated that he had a resident in the Chestnut Ridge neighborhood contact him regarding the planting of street trees last year and he has been contacted by 3 or 4 more home owners regarding the planting of street trees.

Dr. Fescemyer stated that when the proposed agenda comes out for meetings that it go to all Tree Commission members and not just to him.

Ms. Chivers asked that we add the land development review process to the agenda for the June 17th meeting so the whole commission can discuss this as a group.

Mr. Pflumm asked that we add public education programs to the agenda for the June 17th meeting as well.

XI. OTHER

No Other items

XII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the May 23, 2019 Tree Commission meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission