

Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC)

Date February 12, 2018

Meeting Agenda

Time 5:30pm

Call to Order

January 15th Meeting Minutes

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

Arbor Day 2018

Meghan Hoskins of the Ferguson Township Elementary Environmental Club and Adam Smith of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be in attendance to discuss the Arbor Day and habitat enhancement project at the "Owens Drive Parklet" property.

2018 Ash Treatment

The Arborist will provide an update regarding the treatment of ash trees by the township in 2018.

2017 C15 Street Tree Pruning

The Arborist will give an update on the 2017 pruning contract.

Oak Wilt Policy

During the recent open house a representative from Bartlett expressed interest in regulating the pruning of oaks based on growing degree days vs the normal calendar used currently. The FTTC shall discuss and determine how to handle the request.

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

Arbor Day 2018, 2018 Planting Contract,

Other

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

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Monday, January 15, 2018
5:30 pm

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its public meeting on Monday, January 15, 2018 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

Commission: Marc McDill
Howard Fescemyer
Jerry Learn
Mike Jacobson
Darlene Chivers

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

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. McDill called the Monday, January 15, 2018 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

III. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Mr. McDill turned the meeting over to Mr. Modricker for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Modricker asked if there was a nomination for Chair. Mr. McDill nominated Mr. Fescemyer for Chair. Mr. Jacobson seconded the motion. No objections, motioned passed unanimously. Mr. Fescemyer asked for nominations for Vice Chair, to which he nominated Ms. Chivers. Mr. McDill seconded the motion. No objections, motioned passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 13th MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Chivers moved to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. McDill seconded the motion. The meeting minutes passed unanimously.

V. 2018 PLANTING CONTRACT

Mr. King told the FTTC that the 2018 planting contract will soon be going out to bid. All of the species for the replacement trees have been selected, which total 30 species with 83 trees total to replace. Since there are less ash trees left in the Township, there will be less trees to replace going forward. 70 trees will be planted at new locations where no tree exists. These are known as planting opportunities. Trees will be planted in the median of Blue Course Drive and along Martin Street. A couple of the new locations include Park Crest Ln, Stonebridge development and Park Hills Avenue. Mr. King has meet with the HOA in Stonebridge and will attend the HOA meeting in February. Mr. Modricker said that there is an agreement with the HOA that they need to maintain common space and open area. A meeting between the arborist, director of public work and Township manager will need to happen to discuss who will maintain the trees if planted in the right of way in Stonebridge. Mr. McDill feels that if the Township is going to plant the trees in the development that the HOA should bear some of the cost. That concern will be discussed at the Township manager meeting in the next day or so. The contract will hopefully be put out to bid in

the next few days, which is earlier than it has been in the past few years. Mr. Fescemyer gave Mr. King a few new planting location ideas in the event some of the planned locations do not work.

VI. 2018 ASH TREATMENT

Mr. King noted there are 28 ash trees remaining to be treated since work started for treatment by contract in 2014. He has requested pricing for spring injections. Costs for injections are shared between the Township and the HOAs. The treatment is every two years. Mr. Modricker suggested Mr. King to touch base with the HOA's to see if they are interested in continuing treatment. Mr. King knows that one HOA is still interested and will contact the others to determine if they are still interested. Mr. King has observed that the green ash trees seem to have responded better than the white ash trees.

VII. 2017 C15 STREET TREE PRUNING

Mr. King reminded the FTTC that the contract was awarded to Cutting Edge Tree Professionals. They are continuing to work into 2018 and Mr. King has been told by residents, including Ms. Ruth Cooper and Mr. Mark Noel, that the tree work looks great and that they appreciate the Township maintaining the trees. Mr. McDill asked what the pruning cycle is now. Mr. King said it is around 8 years, but that cycle is subject to change due to the age of the tree. There are also a few developments that the pruning is overdue and will need to be addressed sooner. Mr. King has set up his geographical areas but will continue to evaluate the pruning cycle based on the trees maturity and the growing seasons.

VIII. ARBOR DAY 2018

Mr. King updated the FTTC on the events for Arbor Day 2018. Meghan Hoskins has contacted local organizations such as Wildlife for Everyone, Clear Water Conservancy, etc. The event will be held on Township property accessible from Owens Drive and located along Blue Course Drive near the Waffle Shop. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would like to come in and prepare the site by using forestry mowers and clear the invasive plants on the site, along with follow up applications of herbicides if needed. The BOS has appropriated money (\$2500) for this project. Fish and Wildlife intends on starting this project in the next week or so. Mr. McDill asked if there is parking proposed at this site. Mr. Modricker hopes that this will be addressed this year. The FTTC members expressed concern regarding the neighbors being notified of the proposed plan. Mr. Modricker told the FTTC that there will be a press release put out and mailings sent directly to adjoining residents. The students from Ferguson Township Elementary plan on planting the seedlings on Arbor Day 2018. The school has expressed interested in returning to the location of the seedlings to maintain the area. Mr. McDill has offered to work with a group that is willing to monitor the success of the project over the next few years.

IX. 2018 OAK WILT TREATMENT

Mr. King updated the FTTC on the oak wilt treatment contract. The contract from last year was renewed with Bartlett. The pricing will stay the same. Mr. King discussed a concern regarding funding oak wilt treatment. He questioned whether a 1099 must be sent to the property owner. Mr. Modricker stated he would investigate and report back to the FTTC. Mr. McDill asked if there were any other outbreaks in the area. Mr. King said he had only heard of one in the State College Borough and has not heard from Patton Township.

X. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

With no further business, the January 15, 2018 Tree Commission regular meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission

From: Modricker,David
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 2:03 PM
To: King,Lance
Cc: Fescemyer,Howard
Subject: growing degree days

Lance,

At the "Meet the Arborist" forum, Ian brought up the issue of growing degree days. I think we should further discuss this, unless you already got back to him. I said at the meeting I would look into it.

Please put this on an upcoming FTTC agenda.

As a broad application, it may be hard to administer, though if Bartlet calculated the GDD and submitted a permit to our office to trim oak, perhaps that is manageable.

<https://extension.psu.edu/stay-alert-for-oak-wilt>

Retired Penn State Extension plant pathology specialist Gary Moorman always recommended pruning oaks from November to mid-April to avoid infection from insect activity.

Dr. Bruce Fraedrich from Bartlett Tree Research Labs reports that the nitidulid beetles become active between 150 and 175 growing degree-days.

Dave

PS, if you put this item on the next agenda, please include this email to the FTTC for background.

David J. Modricker P.E.
Public Works Director
Ferguson Township
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State College, PA 16801
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APWA Central PA Chapter President 2018

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