

Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC)

Date March 19, 2018

Meeting Agenda

Time 5:30pm

Call to Order

February 12th Meeting Minutes

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

Arbor Day 2018

The Arborist will provide an update on the program including date/time of the event, soil analysis, etc.

2018-C13 Street Tree Planting

The Arborist will provide an update regarding 2018 street tree planting contract.

Unlawful Tree Removal

The Arborist was notified of an unlawful tree removal at 100 Ramblewood Rd. The property owners removed numerous trees on the property including one 24" Norway Maple that was growing in the Township Right of Way. A letter was sent to the property owner notifying them of the violation and inviting them to this meeting. The FTTC shall discuss the event, and advise on how to proceed.

FTTC interaction with SAC and SALDO

FTTC members have expressed interest in being further involved in both of these initiatives, and furthering the use of trees in both storm water management and land development within the Township. A brief discussion was held at the last meeting. The FTTC shall discuss how to move forward and implement their ideas.

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, Stonebridge Future Plantings, 2018 Pruning Contract

Other

Next meeting date and time is April 16th at 5:30pm

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2018
5:30 pm

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its public meeting on Monday, February 12, 2018 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

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

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

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fescemyer called the Monday, February 12, 2018 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:39 pm.

III. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 15TH MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McDill made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Learn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. ARBOR DAY 2018

Mr. King introduced Mr. Adam Smith from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Megan Hoskins contacted Mr. Smith to help coordinate the 2018 Arbor Day activities. Mr. King told the Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) that the clearing of the land behind the Waffle Shop on Owens Drive commenced today. Mr. Smith explained to the FTTC that a portion of land would be cleared today with all of the clearing work completed by week's end. The area that is being cleared is mostly bushes but a few walnut trees were removed as well. Mr. Learn asked if the walnut tree stumps would be removed and Mr. Smith said that they may be removed during the clearing process but some herbicide will be needed to remove the remainder of the stumps. The FTTC members told Mr. King that they were appreciative of the letters that were sent to the adjacent property owners to explain what was being done at that site. A few people inquired with Mr. Modricker for additional detail. Signs have been placed around the property to explain that the area is under construction. 200 trees will be donated by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to plant in the area. The idea is to have more species with vertical branches such as chokeberry and dogwood instead of trees that have horizontal branches to provide habitats for birds. The amount of walnut trees need to be kept to a minimum since many plant species cannot tolerate the soil under a walnut tree. Mr. McDill asked if there is a reason why a certain part of the area doesn't have trees and if planting trees in that area would result in a lot of tree death. Mr. King said that he would conduct soil sampling in advance of tree planting. Mr. Modricker and Mr. Fescemyer asked what type of birds are going to be attracted to this location. Woodcocks are very attracted to this type of environment and hopefully will inhabit the area. Mr. Modricker asked Mr. Smith to draw a schematic of the fencing to help keep the deer from eating/destroying the newly planted

trees. Mr. King explained that the pollinator planting will be a secondary phase of this project and may wait until the fall. Mr. Smith asked if the Township would be interested in removing a large rock pile at the location in exchange for more time donated on this project by his staff. The rock would be great to use in the local streams by the US Fish and Wildlife.

V. 2018 ASH TREATMENT

Mr. King updated the FTTC on the status of the 28 ash trees left in the Township that are being treated. Aikey's Tree Service won the contract for 2018. The HOA's were contacted to see if they were interested in continuing treatment of the ash trees. All the HOA's were in agreement to continue treatment. The treatment is good for 2 years.

VI. 2017 C15 STREET TREE PRUNING

Mr. King updated the FTTC on the status of the street tree pruning contract. The work was completed today and Mr. King will go and inspect the trees hopefully by the end of the week. Mr. King has been pleased with the work that has completed. Only one resident has been upset by the pruning. Ms. Chivers asked how many trees were pruned. Mr. King said that it was approximately 650 trees.

VII. OAK WILT POLICY

Mr. Fescemyer told the FTTC that the policy for oak wilt was brought up at the Meet the Arborist event. Ian Groy (Bartlett Tree Service) brought up the idea of using growing degree days in relation to pruning of oak trees. Essentially the concern is that due to weather pattern changes, the days that an oak tree should or should not be pruned can change. The time frame to prune an oak tree may vary due to the weather and temperature. Bartlett would like to calculate the time frame for trimming oak trees using the growing degree days method instead of a solid from this month to this month basis. The FTTC does agree that using a scientific method is a good idea, however, the end does not justify the means. It may just confuse people more and give the impression that there is no longer a concern for a time frame. Mr. King said that he has spoken with Dr. Bruce Fraedrich and there is consensus that an ordinance have a month to month time frame. The FTTC is in agreement that the way the policy is currently written is fine. Mr. King will track the growing degree days on a spreadsheet for future reference.

VIII. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King asked the FTTC members for assistance in locating an intern. As of today he has not received any applications for the position at Ferguson Township. Mr. McDill told Mr. King to put the ad in Eco-Log, or Mount Alto Campus and West Virginia University.

Mr. King contacted the Stonebridge HOA regarding tree planting in that neighborhood. In the current tree planting contract there are 12 trees that are proposed to be planted in Stonebridge. The Township manager, David Pribulka, met with Mr. King and Mr. Modricker and there is consensus for funding the trees that are to be planted in Stonebridge. Mr. Modricker met with AnnSusan Brewer from Stonebridge and Mr. King will be attending the next Stonebridge HOA meeting to discuss future plantings.

Mr. King told the FTTC that he has been contacted by a homeowner that has a large silver maple located on their property along Deibler Road and Route 45. This silver maple tree is part of the historical society records and is well known throughout the county. The home owner is

Larry Harpster and he is concerned about a lead off the tree that is cracked and overhangs the roadway and may become a hazard. Mr. King is in the process of obtaining a resistograph and he plans the first use of this tool on this tree. Mr. King is concerned that the overall health of the tree is not good and removing only one part of the tree will not solve the problem. If the tree is determined to not be in good health he will remove the entire tree. If the tree is determined to be sound, he will only remove the part of the tree that is a hazard. Mr. King said that he would let the Centre County Historical Society know if the tree is going to be removed.

Mr. King told the FTTC that Ferguson Township plans to build a new public works building that is going to be LEED Gold certified. The landscaping around the Township buildings is also planned to be updated to be more environmentally useful. Plans for the project will be brought to a FTTC meeting for review.

Mr. King let the FTTC know that he will be doing a sample lesson to see if he would qualify as a substitute teacher at Penn Tech. In order to work at a different job, he will be using PTO at the Township.

IX. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Chivers attends the SAC meetings and would like to integrate the FTTC ideas with stormwater management and the SALDO review. She would like the FTTC members to talk and discuss ideas. Mr. Modricker gave the FTTC a response regarding Ms. Chivers concerns in this matter.

With no further business, the February 12, 2018 Tree Commission regular meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission



SOIL TEST REPORT FOR:				ADDITIONAL COPY TO:		
LANCE KING FERGUSON TOWNSHIP 3147 RESEARCH DR STATE COLLEGE PA 16801						
DATE	LAB #	SERIAL #	COUNTY	ACRES	FIELD ID	SOIL
03/06/2018	S18-04825		Centre			

SOIL NUTRIENT LEVELS	Below Optimum	Optimum	Above Optimum
Soil pH			
Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅)			
Potash (K ₂ O)			
Magnesium (MgO)			
Calcium (CaO)			

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR: *Woodlot, Mixed Species, To Plant*

Limestone, Calcium And Magnesium Recommendations

Apply the following quantities of limestone, epsom salts and/or gypsum to the soil to correct soil pH, calcium and magnesium levels.

Calcitic Limestone: NONE
(0-3 % Mg)

Magnesium: NONE

Gypsum (CaSO₄): NONE

Nitrogen, Phosphate And Potash Recommendations

Apply 2.5 lbs per 100 square feet of 5-10-10 and 1.0 lbs per 100 square feet of 0-46-0.

MESSAGES

The above lime and fertilizer recommendations are for this soil sample and this season only. Nitrogen, phosphate and potash recommendations are for fertilizers containing specific ratios of nitrogen (N), phosphate (P₂O₅) and potash (K₂O). As an example 5-10-10 contains 5 % N, 10 % P₂O₅, and 10 % K₂O. If fertilizers with the ratio(s) shown are not available, contact your local garden center or fertilizer supplier for the appropriate substitution.

LABORATORY RESULTS:							Optional Tests:					
¹ pH	² P lb/A	Exchangeable Cations (meq/100g)					% Saturation of the CEC			Organic Matter %	Nitrate-N ppm	Soluble salts mmhos/cm
		³ Acidity	² K	² Mg	² Ca	⁴ CEC	K	Mg	Ca			
6.1	6	4.5	0.3	1.4	7.5	13.7	1.9	10.3	54.9			

Test Methods: ¹1:1 soil:water pH, ²Mehlich 3 (ICP), ³Mehlich Buffer pH, ⁴Summation of Cations

COMMENTS

- To be most effective, all recommended limestone and/or fertilizer should be incorporated 6 to 8 inches into the soil prior to planting. If plants or crop is established, apply recommended materials to the surface and water area well.

Use a high quality agricultural ground limestone product to meet the limestone recommendation on this report. Manufacturers of agricultural ground limestone products provide a number called the calcium carbonate equivalent, or CCE, on the label. CCEs with high numerical values (close to 100 or above) indicate a pure lime source (greater ability to neutralize soil acidity). The amount of lime recommended on this report is based on an agricultural ground limestone with a CCE of 100. If your lime source is close to or equal to 100, you don't need to adjust the recommended amount. In the event that you use a lime source with a CCE well below 100, use the following formula to adjust the required amount.

$$\text{Actual liming material required} = \frac{(\text{Soil test recommendation in lbs of lime/1000 square feet}) \times 100}{\text{CCE of liming material}}$$

Example Only:

Soil Test Recommendation: 5 lbs limestone /100 square feet

CCE on label: 70 percent

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Actual liming material required} &= \frac{(5 \text{ lb of limestone}/100 \text{ square feet}) \times 100}{70} \\ &= 7 \text{ lbs liming material}/100 \text{ square feet} \end{aligned}$$

- If 11 to 20 pounds of limestone are recommended, divide the amount by two and apply in two applications six months apart. If 21 or more pounds are recommended, divide the amount by three and make three applications at six month intervals.
- If 3 or more pounds of MgSO₄ (Epsom salts) are recommended, divide the amount by two and make separate applications at four month intervals. If an alternative magnesium source is used, apply an amount equal to the equivalent of 10.5% Mg in MgSO₄; ONLY ONE APPLICATION should be needed.
- Lime and fertilizer recommended in pounds of material per each 100 square feet of area to be treated. Use the following conversions to convert from pounds per 100 square feet to other units or area sizes:
 Pounds per 100 sq. ft. x 10 = pounds per 1000 sq. ft.
 Pounds per 100 sq. ft. x 435 = pounds per acre:
- Amount of sulfur needed to lower soil pH to optimum level.
(See Laboratory Results on front of report for soil pH)

From Current Soil pH	To Optimum Soil pH	Sulfur (lb/100 sq ft)	From Current Soil pH	To Optimum Soil pH	Sulfur (lb/100 sq ft)
8.0	7.5	0.50	7.0	6.5	0.75
	7.0	1.00		6.0	1.25
	6.5	2.00		5.5	2.50
	6.0	3.00			
	5.5	4.00			
7.5	7.0	0.75	6.5	6.0	1.00
	6.5	1.25		5.5	1.75
	6.0	2.50			
	5.5	3.50	6.0	5.5	1.50

Apply sulfur at the above rates for a loam soil. On heavier soil (silt loams) use one third more than the Amount shown. On lighter soils (sandy loams) use one-half of the amounts shown. If aluminum or ferrous sulfate is used to lower pH, multiply the above amounts by 2.5. Follow the same suggestions as above for soil types. If 4 or more pounds are needed, divide the amount in half and make two applications six months apart.

- There is no reliable test for evaluating the amount of nitrogen (N) in soils that is available to crops over the growing season. The N recommended is based on the actual N that needs to be supplied annually to ensure optimum plant growth.



TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

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www.twp.ferguson.pa.us

March 1, 2018

Robert A & Shana M Miller
100 Ramblewood Rd
Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865

RE: Unlawful Removal of Public Tree

Dear Property Owner:

It has been brought to the attention of this office that you have removed, or caused to be removed a 24 inch Norway Maple on Township Property in the Right of Way of Brooklawn Rd. Removal of this tree is a violation of the Township Code of Ordinances Chapter 25, Section 106. Penalties for this violation are provided in Chapter 25, Section 110, Subsection 2A, 2B. I have enclosed a copy of the chapter with these sections highlighted.

As required by Ordinance, this matter will be on the Ferguson Township Tree Commission Agenda for the meeting on Monday March 19, 2018 at 5:30pm in Conference Room 2 of the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. The Ferguson Township Tree Commission will discuss the violation and advise the Public Works Director on what action should be taken. You are welcome to attend this meeting. If you would like to discuss this matter prior to the meeting please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Lance A. King
Township Arborist
ISA Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist PD2097-AM

File: Tax Parcel: 24-006B,001-,0000-

Copy: David Modricker Public Works Director
David Pribulka Township Manager
Ferguson Township Tree Commission

Tree #	Species	Diameter	Base Value	Species Rating	Condition	Location	Value
1	Norway Maple	24"	\$ 21,013.98	1	0.4	0.4	\$3,362.24