

# **Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC)**

**Date April 16, 2018**

**Meeting Agenda**

**Time 5:30pm**

## Call to Order

### March 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes

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

### Director of Planning and Zoning

Raymond Stolinis the Director of Planning and Zoning will be in attendance to discuss FTTC input on the revisions of the SALDO and Zoning Ordinance.

### 2018-C13 Street Tree Planting

The Arborist will provide an update regarding 2018 street tree planting contract and David Modricker Public Works Director will discuss feedback he received from several bidders regarding the contract.

### Arbor Day 2018

The Arborist will provide an update on the event.

### Stonebridge Planting Project

The Arborist will provide an update on the Stonebridge tree planting project.

### 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 Planting Contract, Stonebridge Future Plantings, 2018 Pruning Contract

### Other

Next meeting date and time is May 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30pm

## **FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting  
Monday, March 19, 2018  
5:30 pm

### **I. ATTENDANCE**

The Tree Commission held its public meeting on Monday, March 19, 2018 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

**Commission:** Howard Fescemyer, Chair  
Darlene Chivers, Vice Chair  
Jerry Learn

**Staff:** Lance King, Arborist  
David Modricker, Director of Public Works  
David Pribulka, Township Manager

Others in attendance: Robert Miller

### **II. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Fescemyer called the Monday, March 19, 2018 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

### **III. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Chivers made a motion to approve the meeting minutes pending a correction. Mr. Learn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. UNLAWFUL TREE REMOVAL**

Robert Miller attended the Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) meeting to discuss the removal of the tree in the right of way at his property located at 100 Ramblewood Road. Mr. Miller apologized for the removal of the tree as he was unaware it was a Township street tree. Mr. Miller indicated that the removal of the tree was due to hazard branches overhanging the roadway. He removed other trees on his property. He would like to plant a row of trees on the south side of his property in the future as a border. Mr. King told the FTTC that without reviewing the street right of way, he was previously unaware that the tree in question was a Township tree. Without seeing the tree in a complete state, it was difficult to determine the condition of the tree. The majority of the tree was removed prior to Mr. King viewing the tree. A letter was sent to the homeowner to make him aware of the infraction. Mr. Learn asked if Mr. King knew the age of the tree or if the trunk of the tree was hollow. Mr. King stated that he did not know the age and what was left of the tree was not enough to determine whether or not the tree was hollow. Mr. Learn asked what the penalty options are regarding the ordinance. A brief review of the ordinance was discussed between the FTTC members and Mr. King. Mr. Modricker outlined the two options that are determined by the ordinance: 1) a \$1000 fine plus the cost of the tree estimated to be approximately \$3,400 for a total of \$4,400 or plant a number of smaller trees equivalent in total cross sectional area to the cross sectional area of the tree that was removed. Mr. Learn and Mr. Fescemyer would like to see another option such as planting a tree or two instead of issuing a citation. Mr. King said that if the FTTC would like to see another tree planted in the right of way, he would like it to be in

a different location due to lack of purposely planted trees in that development. Mr. King noted nearby Fairbrook Park as a potential location for planting a new tree. The FTTC as a group feels that following the ordinance seems excessive given the circumstances of this case and that the homeowner did not act maliciously in removing the tree. Mr. Miller has agreed that he is willing to pay for a new tree and also donate to the Arbor Day Activities. Mr. King will be in contact with Mr. Miller to discuss the cost of the tree and any other issues that need to be addressed.

#### **V. FTTC INTERACTION WITH SAC AND SALDO**

Mr. King introduced the Township Manager, David Pribulka, to the FTTC. A member of the FTTC has expressed interest in more interaction between the FTTC and the Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Planning Commission. Ms. Chivers relayed the information that had been discussed at the SAC meetings regarding trees. She would like to see more trees planted in stormwater basins. She discussed an interest on more emphasis on green infrastructure and noted street trees may help with effective storm water management. Ms. Chivers would like to see the FTTC become more proactive instead of reactive and have more input on land usage in the Township. An example of a tree mass removed during development that the FTTC would like to have been preserved is located near the intersection of Blue Course and Old Gatesburg Rd (on property previously known as Circleville Farms). Mr. Learn would like to explore the possibility of planting trees in stormwater basins instead of letting the basins empty. Mr. King reviewed the topics that Ms. Chivers and Mr. Learn brought forward and noted he is the staff liaison for the FTTC on the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance rewrite committee. Mr. Pribulka told the FTTC that land development regulations are governed by the PA Municipal Planning Code (MPC). The Township cannot dictate regulations for a development that are not supported under the PA MPC. Ms. Chivers expressed interest in having a conversation between the FTTC and the Planning Commission (PC) members. Mr. Pribulka and Mr. Modricker gave an overall description of the role of staff as liaison between committees and suggested a first meeting or presentation by the Director of Planning and Zoning, and perhaps a work session with the Planning Commission or placing a specific item of interest on the PC agenda. The FTTC decided they would like to have a more focused discussion with members of Ferguson Township staff like the Director of Planning and Zoning, Raymond Stolinas, or the Ferguson Township Zoning Administrator, Jeff Ressler, to find a direction for their concerns going forward.

#### **VI. ARBOR DAY 2018**

Mr. King presented the results of soil testing conducted at Owens Park. Results indicate that Phosphate is below optimum and recommend soil amendment with nitrogen, phosphate and potash. Mr. King will follow up with Adam Smith, U S Fish and Wildlife Service regarding potential soil amendments for the proposed tree planting project.

#### **VII. 2018-C13 STREET TREE PLANTING**

Mr. King updated the FTTC on the 2018-C13 street tree planting contract. Greene's Landscaping, located in Milesburg, was awarded the contract. Mr. King has not worked with Greene's, but they have done work for the Township prior to Mr. King's arrival. There were more bidders this year for the planting contract than in the past. Work will commence in the next few weeks and all of the stumps that were slated for removal have been removed.

#### **VIII. ARBORIST REPORT**

Mr. King stated that he met with Stonebridge HOA. He is working on a planting plan for the development. There are underground utilities in the development that must be avoided during determination of planting locations. A letter will be going out to the homeowners from the HOA regarding the tree planting. The HOA does not want to speak for the homeowners and wants property owners to have a voice in determining how many trees are desired. The planting that will happen this year in the Stonebridge development is in the open spaces which are HOA owned.

Mr. King will be attending a Forest Health, Insect and Disease briefing at the Penn State on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018. A regional tree commission meeting will be on March 28<sup>th</sup> 2018 at the State College Borough Building and Mr. King will be speaking on oak wilt at the meeting. Mr. Fescemyer asked if there was an agenda given for the meeting. Mr. King will send an agenda for the meeting to the FTTC members.

Mr. King mentioned that in the past week he has received two phone calls from individuals located in areas outside of Centre County who want to learn more about oak wilt. He is not certain as to why they are contacting Ferguson Township but hopes that word of oak wilt has spread. The individuals are looking for information regarding the pruning of oak trees and what the Township has done to help remediate the disease.

Mr. Learn asked Mr. King about the status of the silver maple tree located at the intersection of Deibler Road and Route 45. The large split limb has been removed by the Township. Mr. King used the resistograph on the tree and the results show that the wood is soft. The homeowner isn't in favor of removing the tree, however, the tree is in the Township right of way. Mr. King does not concern that the tree is a hazard at this time since a lot of the branches have been removed. Mr. King will continue to have an open dialogue with the homeowner for future plans for the tree.

Mr. King also told the FTTC that he has not had any success in finding an intern.

Ms. Chivers thanked Mr. King and the Ferguson Township road crew for removing the large dead limbs overhanging Deepwood Drive.

With no further business, the March 19, 2018 Tree Commission regular meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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David Modricker, Director of Public Works  
For the Tree Commission