

Borough of Phoenixville

Tree Advisory Commission

September 13, 2010

Start Time: 6:36 pm

Attendance: Commissioners - Paul Kusko, Joan McCracken, Randy Morin Staff Liaison -Melissa Gibbons, Dir. Parks & Recreation Dept. Tree Commission Volunteers - John Westerman, Ryan Murry

Action items in **bold**.

Minutes Review:

- Meeting of Aug 9, 2010: Minutes were accepted as written and will be posted to the Borough website.
- **Randy will send minutes from July and August to Melissa for posting to Borough website.**
- **Randy will add page numbers to minutes.**

Tree Services Completed:

- Only 4 completed services were submitted to TAC so some must be missing.
- **Melissa will collect all completed service orders and let TAC know when they can be picked up.**

Tree Service List:

- 57 trees have been treated this year which brings the total number of trees on service list down from 224 to 167.
- There are trees being treated that are not on the list (emergencies/serious hazards).

Tree Service Request Follow-Ups:

- Marshall & Emmitt
 - Site line from stop sign was partially obscured by hawthorns
 - Paul trimmed them a bit to help the view
 - An unused utility pole also obscures the view and should be removed. TAC recommends that the Borough Manager order removal of the pole.
- 421 Starr St.
 - **Paul will recommend to Brian Watson that the Borough attempt to re-build the end of the residents driveway**
- 1213 Monroe
 - Property owner would like tree removed due to sewer line being clogged with tree roots
 - Since the sewer line is already damaged removing the tree will not help
 - TAC will not recommend removing the tree
- 1215/1217 Monroe
 - Property owner would like tree removed due to danger of injury and nuisance from large acorns

- TAC will not approve of removal but will recommend a structural crown reduction to keep branches away from the house and driveway to minimize the acorn problem.

Plantings

2010 PennVest Grant:

- No news

Watering:

- Paul is concerned that many new plantings are not getting watered enough (or at all)
- The Streets Dept. is supposed to be watering the street trees but there is no accountability to demonstrate that it is being done.
- Melissa stated that the park trees are being watered.
- Paul asked if a watering report could be kept to track which trees are being watered
- **Melissa will work on this with Brian Watson**

Fall 2010 Tree Plantings:

- No plantings will be scheduled for Fall 2010
- **TAC will plan for Spring 2011 plantings**

Violations

319 Gay St:

- Vehicle took out a tree planting from 2006

730 Gay St:

- Vehicle took out 1 of 4 trees planted in 2005

Gay & City Line:

- A line of large pines was removed
- They were not in the tree inventory so response necessary

Old Business

Borough Tree Ordinance:

- All TAC commissioners agree that the tree ordinance should remain as is
- The TAC needs to put together a report for the Borough Manager and Council
- Randy has drafted a report that can be a starting point
 - **TAC members need to add support for our position**
 - Even with ordinance change, the Borough will still have to maintain park trees (**add # of trees**)

- **Randy will add a brief narrative to go with each table/chart**
- **Randy will add that the Borough is still attached to the liability for right-of-way trees even if their maintenance is turned over to property owners.**
- **Randy will add some info about Lower Merion as an example of another town with a successful tree management program (26,000 trees; \$1,000,000 budget; full-time arborist with crew)**
- **Randy will send the draft to TAC and Melissa for additions and edits.**

New Business

Tree City Road Signs:

- More signs need to be ordered so that one can be placed at each State Road entrance to the Borough
- The Borough Manager wants all major points of entry to have signage.
- Melissa will arrange with Borough to purchase 4 more signs from the Arbor Day Foundation.

Meeting closed at 9:05 pm