

Borough of Phoenixville

Tree Advisory Commission

January 10, 2011

Start Time: 6:40 pm

Attendance: Commissioners - Paul Kusko, Joan McCracken, Randy Morin; Staff Liaison -Melissa Gibbons, Dir. Parks & Recreation Dept.; Borough Manager – Jean Krack; CFO – Steve Nease; Tree Commission Volunteer - John Westerman

Action items in **bold**.

Public Comment:

- None

December Minutes Review:

- Joan had a few edits for the leaf raking project
- December minutes were accepted as revised and approved.
- **Randy will send final notes out to group.**

Tree Services Completed:

- Paul went through the entire list of 2010 invoices for tree services completed, cross-checked with the tree database, and generated three outcome lists: one of trees serviced, one of trees that still need service, and one of trees that the TAC has not looked at yet.
- 76 trees were not serviced from the 2010 service list (out of 224).
- A lot of work was completed in 2010; nearly 400 services including emergencies and some others that are not in the tree inventory.

122 Bridge St Tree Removal:

- Business owner adjacent to Balder Park asked about removing a tree that is growing into their sewer.
- Tree is not in poor condition.
- Paul advised owner that the sewer line is his responsibility and that removing the tree will not fix the problem.
- Given budget constraints for this year the TAC does not plan to spend money to remove the tree.
- **Paul will contact business owner to let him know that the tree removal would likely not solve the problem and given budget constraints the TAC cannot pay to remove tree.**

133 6th Ave Potential Hazard Tree:

- Don Feldpulsh, 133 6th Ave. – Dec. 2, 2010 at 4 pm a large oak tree fell on Rt. 29. PennDOT came and removed tree (18 hrs of work). John Westerman says the tree had the root rot and advises that the other one should have the roots examined via excavation. Since the school bus stops right

under the tree Don wonders if the school bus stop should be moved in case the other tree falls. Borough took pictures.

- The tree is not a Borough tree because it is out of the Borough right-of-way and is not listed in the Borough tree inventory.
- **Paul will draft a letter to send to the homeowner relaying the above information.**

41 Franklin St. – leaning tree:

- John Westerman looked at the tree and suggested that it should be removed.
- Still not aware if Steve Bannan has looked at tree.
- **This is still unresolved for 2010.**

2010 Budget (Steve Nease):

- A bit more than \$15K left from 2010 for contract services.
- Since there are about 80 trees left from the 2010 list the \$15K will not be enough for 2011.
- Can TAC determine approximately how much it will cost for all the takedowns?
- We will have to ask council for the amount that needs to be added to the 2011 budget to complete the list.

2011 Budget (Steve Nease):

- \$10,000 in budget for contract services for emergency removals/services.
- TAC will need to determine how much will need to be added to complete list.
- **Paul will provide an estimate of how many removals/services need to be completed and an estimated cost to Steve Nease before the Finance Committee meeting.**

Plantings (Paul Kusko):

- Optimistic about getting some grants for tree plantings in 2011.
- Paul suggests planting the tree species that were originally in the Streetscapes plan for the empty tree pits on Bridge St.
- **Jean Krack will try to get the plan for tree plantings at Streetscapes meeting.** Money from Streetscapes grant could potentially be used to purchase the trees.

2011 Tree Ordinance (Jean Krack):

- Jean suggests making a form available for property owners who would like to trim or remove a tree at their own expense.
- Paul stated that the TAC has allowed homeowners to get their own work done after approval from TAC.
- **Jean does not plan to pursue a change to the ordinance for 2011.**
- **TAC will look at service request response letter and edit for 2011 situation. We will re-visit at the Feb. meeting.**

Spring Newsletter:

- Joan will submit an article about the fall raking project
- Paul will try to submit an article on his attendance at the urban tree conference.
- Randy will draft up an article about the budget situation and changes in tree services for 2011. (Budget constraints lead to changes in handling tree service requests....)

Tree City USA:

- Nothing to report on signs.
- Randy submitted application for re-certification for 2010.
- With the budget at the current levels the Borough we may not qualify to be a Tree City USA for 2011.
- Randy will send an email to Jean Krack and Steve Nease detailing what the requirements are to qualify for 2011 and the concern that we may lost it.

New Service Requests (from end of 2010):

- 1231 Madison Ave. – TAC denied removal request on 9-14-09 but recommended trim and monitor; **add to Spring 2011 inspection list**
- 366 3rd Ave. – tree is actually on Nutt Road; tree was trimmed on July 16, 2008 but not the limb that was of concern; **Paul will include this one on list for work that needs to be completed from 2010 (trim limb back from yard and away from utility lateral).**
- 1215 South Main St. – **add to 2010 hold list for spring 2011 inspection.**
- 873 Woodlawn Ave. - **add to 2010 hold list for spring 2011 inspection.**
- 509 Virginia Ave. - **add to 2010 hold list for spring 2011 inspection.**
- 344 First Ave. – listed at June 11, 2007; case closed when trees were trimmed in 2010
- 143 First Ave. - case closed when tree was removed Oct. 2010
- 468 Emmitt St. – Aug. 9, 2004 removal was requested due to sidewalk; TAC denied request due to healthy tree; requested again Sept. 2010 for removal due to dead branches; **add to 2010 hold list for spring 2011 inspection.**
- 541 Columbia Ave. – Sept. 12, 2005 removed A tree and trimmed B tree on Harrison; one tree left on Harrison; **add to 2010 hold list for spring 2011 inspection.**
- First and Lincoln Ave. – tree is dying; not enough information provided to act on this.

New Service Requests (2011):

- **Several new requests added for spring 2011 inspection.**

Planning Commission: Fairview Village Landscape Plan:

- Paul brought in landscape plan.
- Number of trees in plan is impressive but Paul noticed that no trees are planned in and around parking lots.

- **Paul will attend Planning Commission meeting or send an email suggested that trees be added in parking areas.**

Meeting closed at 8:10 pm