

Borough of Phoenixville

Tree Advisory Commission

Nov. 14, 2011

Start Time: 6:32 pm

Attendance: Commissioners – Paul Kusko, Joan McCracken, Randy Morin; Borough Manager – Jean Krack; Codes Officer – Dave Boelker; Volunteer – John Westerman

Action items in **bold**.

**Public Comment:**

- None

**October Minutes Review:**

- Minutes approved.
- **Mr. Morin will send final notes out to group for publication on web site.**

**Two Residences with Broken Limbs from Snowstorm:**

- 1209 Tyler and 1250 S. Main St. - Mr. Kusko thought they were supposed to have been taken care of by today (Nov. 14).

**2010 Backlog List of Needed Service:**

- Mr. Kusko stated that much of the work that is currently being done is not trees that are on the backlog (i.e. we are not catching up).
- Mr. Krack mentioned that other work may be getting done due to the election.
- **Mr. Kusko will provide the current backlog list to Mr. Krack.**
- **Mr. Krack will have a meeting with Ms. Gibbons and Mr. Watson about the work that is getting done.**

**Codes Discussion:**

- Mr. Kusko explained to Mr. Boelker that the reason we asked him to attend the meeting is due to instances where sidewalks and driveways cause trees to decline due to root removal.
- Mr. Kusko suggested that the Codes Dept. could require care with tree roots when permitting sidewalks and driveways. This would include guidance for things like careful root trimming, sidewalk cut-outs, re-routing driveways, etc.
- TAC was under the impression that this type of language would be added to the sidewalk/driveway permit forms.
- Mr. Boelker responded that only about 50% of driveway and sidewalk replacements get permits for this work.

- Mr. Boelker does go out and look at sidewalks and recommends cut-outs around trees (e.g. 329 Griffen). He also sometimes puts notes in the permit that he needs to verify that roots won't be damaged.
- **Mr. Boelker will add a section about tree roots to the driveway/sidewalk application.**

#### **Pruning Permits:**

- Mr. Boelker can add TAC recommended scope of work to pruning permits.

#### **Violations:**

- Mr. Boelker can stay in contact with the TAC regarding violations and fines.

#### **Service Requests :**

- 243 Morris – pruning request
  - Large, healthy oak tree
  - Ms. McCracken recommends elevation, cutting back from house, and removing dead branches.
  - Mr. Kusko recommends elevate over the street to 16 ft and sidewalk to 8 ft, removal of the 4 lowest limbs and the crossing limb. Trim back from building and away from utility lateral. Also remove dead branches. Crown thinning but no crown reduction.
  - Mr. Morin recommends a trim back from house and removal of dead branches.
  - **All three TAC commissioners recommend approval for pruning.**
  - **Scope of work - elevate over the street to 16 ft and sidewalk to 8 ft, removal of the 4 lowest limbs and the crossing limb. Trim back from building and away from utility lateral. Also remove dead branches. Crown thinning but no crown reduction.**
- 64 Coll (Wilkerson) – pruning/removal request
  - 30" diameter large oak tree.
  - Mr. Kusko reports that the tree has a considerable amount of dieback and appears to be in serious decline. He recommends removal.
  - **All three TAC commissioners recommend approval for removal.**

#### **Fall Planting Project:**

- 10 trees were planted by 8 volunteers and a Street Dept. crew of 4 on Nov. 12.

#### **Fall Raking Project:**

- Nov. 12 – 20 yards were raked by Spring Ford and Phoenixville Key Clubs, Scout Troop 158, and St. Ann's. Total of about 40 to 50 volunteers participated.

#### **2011 Budget:**

- About \$11K left for 2011

**2012 Budget:**

- No news yet. Mr. Nease meets with the Finance Committee Nov. 15.

**Trees for Reeves Park:**

- Interest in planting trees to shade children's playground.
- Mr. Kusko looked at the site and estimates we could plant 5 large trees there.
- Mr. Kusko went to Shemins and found that they have some various balled and burlap maples that we could get for about \$100 each.

**Application for Tree City USA Growth Award:**

- Mr. Morin reported that Phoenixville does not qualify for the award due to a shrinking tree budget.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm