

Borough of Phoenixville

Tree Advisory Commission

May 9, 2011

Start Time: 6:31 pm

Attendance: Commissioners - Paul Kusko, Randy Morin; Staff Liaison - Melissa Gibbons, Dir. Parks & Recreation Dept.; Absent: Commissioner Joan McCracken

Action items in **bold**.

**Public Comment:**

- James Reichert, 617 Gay St.
  - Large red oak that is in decline
  - TAC recommended trim of dead branches in November of 2008.
  - **Since the tree is on the list of services to be completed this year, Mr. Kusko suggests we change the recommendation to a removal and see if Public Works accepts it.**

**March Minutes Review:**

- March minutes were accepted as revised and approved.
- **Mr. Morin will send final notes out to Ms. Gibbons for publication on web site.**

**2011 Budget:**

- \$1,100 spent on contract services to date.
- \$1,400 spent on TreeVitalize bare root trees for Spring planting event.
- **If any invoices come in Ms. Gibbons will email out to TAC.**

**Tree Contractor Bid Packet:**

- Bid will go out to contract work on backlog tree list, emergencies, and park tree maintenance.
- We discussed whether bids would be more reasonable if the contractors knew how much work needs to be completed (e.g., number of removals, number of trims, amount of money, etc.).
- Mr. Kusko and Mr. Morin both noted that the Borough may want to have material removed from regulated trees left at the compost site for chips.
- Mr. Morin suggested directing the contractor to complete all removals first then move on to trims. This would ensure that the most hazardous trees get removed this year as well as leaving less expensive services for homeowners if all trees on the backlog list are not completed.
- **Mr. Kusko will generate an updated list (with the change from trim to remove at 617 Gay St.) for Ms. Gibbons that can be used to add information to the bid packet including number of removals.**

**Resident Response Letter for Tree Service Requests:**

- Draft letter explains the budget situation.

- TAC is fine with the letter. The only change is to remove the part about approval at the bottom.
- If the homeowner wants to pay for the work themselves then they can fill out the Street Tree Removal/Trim Application.
- **Mr. Kusko will add a trim section to the Street Tree Removal/Trim Application.**
- **Ms. Gibbons will add some text to the Response Letter to clarify that the attached application needs to be submitted if a homeowner wants to trim or remove a tree at their own expense.**

#### **Borough Tree Ordinance:**

- Mr. Kusko attended the Policy Committee meeting on April 26.
- Mr. Evans felt that this issue is important enough to make the next Policy Committee meeting devoted to the Tree Ordinance issue.
- **All TAC member and all Policy Committee members have been asked to attend the Policy Committee meeting on May 24 from 7 to 8:30 pm.**

#### **Arbor Day Event:**

- Mr. Kusko has an Arbor Day Flag (Tree City USA) that he recommends fly in Reeves Park during Dogwood Festival.
- Mayor Scoda, Senator Dinniman, 5 State Foresters from the DCNR, and 35 volunteers from VFCC attended.

#### **Dogwood Festival Tree Protection:**

- Plan is to spray a white circle around the drip line of each tree. No equipment will be allowed inside the circle and trucks shouldn't be driven through the circles.
- **Ms. Gibbons will discuss with the president of the Jaycees.**

#### **Tree Plantings:**

- VFCC Service Day
  - 53 trees planted during April planting project with VFCC.
  - Ms. Gibbons asked about a watering plan to new trees.
  - **Mr. Kusko will think about it and get back to Ms. Gibbons about a watering plan.**
- 239 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. needs to be relocated from over the sewer line to Morris Park
  - This work could be done by the Borough Public Works Dept.
  - Mr. Kusko stated that this relocation would need to occur during May before the weather gets too hot.
- River birch needs to be relocated from compost site to Morris Park
  - This work could be done by the Borough Public Works Dept.
  - Mr. Kusko stated that this relocation would need to occur during May before the weather gets too hot.
- Other plantings:
  - 3 on Virginia Ave

- **If Public Works dept can do the work then Mr. Kusko will buy the trees from Shemin's with money left in budget for purchases.**
- 4 on Bridge and Main St.
  - 2 in front of the mural and 2 on Bridge St. across from Molly Maguires
  - **If Public Works dept approves the work then Mr. Kusko will buy the trees from Shemin's with money left in budget for purchases.**
- 4 on E. Bridge St.
  - Down near Laundromat
  - **If Public Works dept approves the work then Mr. Kusko will buy the trees from Shemin's with money left in budget for purchases.**

#### **Prunings:**

- Mr. Kusko pruned the trees on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. between Gay and Main Street.

#### **Tree Service Inspections and Recommendations:**

- 125 Columbia, Nesspor
  - Recommended allowing him to trim some branches that overhang his garage and deny removal
- 873 Woodlawn, McDonald
  - Recommended removal of 4-inch dead branch
- 892 Woodlawn, Kennedy
  - Recommended removal of 6 -inch dead branch overhanging porch
- 509 Virginia, Smith
  - Healthy tree; no recommendation for service other than some elevation; no hazard
- 201 Main St, Freese
  - This tree was damaged by another a tree that fell during a wind storm
  - Homeowners are concerned that the tree may fall on the barn due to weight all on one side
  - Recommended removal at homeowners expense
- 541 Columbia, Niccarello
  - One dead branch over the street; tree is showing signs of stress; weak leaf-out
  - Recommended that tree should monitored for future decline
- 20 Manavon, Yanoviak
  - Many trees on the street that have been topped and overtrimmed by utility company.
  - Many sucker branches that are growing straight up.
  - Recommended future consideration as budget permits
- 81 Second Ave, Holmes
  - Healthy tree with very few dead branches'
  - Recommended no action at this time
- 258 Walnut, Warrick
  - Tree was replaced during April planting project

- 468 Emmett, Carey
  - Overall healthy
  - Recommended removal of some dead branches and to clear utility line
- 1022 Bridge St, Cannuli
  - Utility cut v-knotch tree; very bad sidewalk lifting; unsightly tree
  - Recommended removal at homeowners expense
- 296 Griffen, Womer
  - Large, healthy tree
  - Recommended removal of some dead branches, trimming back from buildings, and elevation
- 509 Carlisle, Marino
  - Overall in good condition; low hazard
  - Recommended possible structural trim
- 524 Gay St, Coccia
  - In decent condition; recommend elevation to remove branches away from porch
- 1240 Tyler, Manning
  - In very good condition; low hazard; could remove some dead branches
- 1215 Main, Dathe
  - City-Line Side; two silver maples in poor shape; one is in very poor shape
  - Recommend removal at homeowners expense
- 826 Maple
  - Large, dead red oak; high hazard
  - Recommended removal ASAP
- 309 Emmett, Famous
  - Very crowded and up against house; lots of dead
  - Recommended removal
- 508 Carlisle
  - Tree nearly dead;
  - Recommended removal
- 1235 Tyler
  - Tree nearly dead
  - Recommended removal
- 294 Griffen
  - Dogwood tree is dead and needs to be removed
  - The tree is small enough that Mr. Morin is comfortable helping his neighbor remove the tree to save them the money.

Meeting closed at 8:30 pm