

Borough of Phoenixville

Tree Advisory Commission

July 11, 2011

Start Time: 6:30 pm

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

Action items in **bold**.

**Tree Ordinance Amendments (Mr. Krack):**

- Mr. Krack handed out copies of the proposed ordinance.
- **Commissioners need to get back to Mr. Krack by Monday, June 18, 2011.**

**Tree Service Request Application Forms (Mr. Krack):**

- Removal/replanting application and pruning application forms are approved and nearly ready for use.
- **Mr. Kusko will review the forms to give them one last look.**
- **The Borough will begin giving them to all property owners that request service on regulated trees.**

**May Minutes Review:**

- Mr. Morin sent the draft minutes from the May meeting out on May 10, 2011.
- Mr. Kusko made a few suggested edits on May 17, 2011.
- Minutes approved as amended.
- **Mr. Morin will send final notes out to group for publication on web site.**

**June Minutes Review:**

- Mr. Morin sent the draft minutes from the June meeting out on June 14, 2011.
- Mr. Kusko made a suggested edit during July TAC meeting.
- Minutes approved as amended.
- **Mr. Morin will send final notes out to group for publication on web site.**

**Completed Work Orders (Mr. Kusko):**

- Seven completed stump grinds, one trim, and one removal (maple at 1215 Main St.) in June.

**411 Carlisle Update:**

- TAC gave homeowners suggestions on how to deal with sidewalk and keep the tree at June meeting.
- Homeowner will need to explore options for moving and/or narrowing sidewalk.
- **Mr. Morin will send Mr. Krack an email to see if the Borough can help deal with the sidewalk.**

#### **Trees Along Trail at Farmers Market:**

- Request to have approximately four dead trees near Taylor Alley and trail along French Creek.
- **Ms. Gibbons will put in a request to have Streets Dept. workers remove the trees.**

#### **1231 Madison Ave.:**

- Homeowner needs to have water meter replaced but there is no shut-off valve at street.
- Apparently, water meter can't be replaced until the sidewalk is repaired.
- Homeowner also wants to replace sidewalk but doesn't want the new sidewalk to be destroyed by the tree roots, and therefore wants to remove the tree.
- TAC recommends that the tree not be removed because it is a mature, high value tree that is healthy.
- Mr. Kusko suggests that the sidewalk can be re-routed and or narrowed to accommodate the tree's roots. Per borough manager, could asphalt be used instead of concrete?
- It may come down to an engineering decision by the public works dept. Can the water meter be installed and while keeping the tree.

#### **422 City Line Ave. (Mr. Mull):**

- Homeowner has a problem with honeydew (from aphids) dropping on his car.
- Mr. Morin advised Mr. Mull that a soil drench insecticide could be applied during the Fall that may help with aphid control next year.
- Mr. Kusko agreed that Mr. Mull should be allowed to try this product (Bayer 12-Month Tree and Shrub Insect Control – Trade Name *Merit*).
- TAC will monitor the impact of the treatment and advise future homeowners with aphid problems.
- Mr. Mull is also interested in having the tree pruned away from his driveway to help with honeydew drip.
- Mr. Kusko agreed that his pruning request would be approved.
- **Mr. Morin will advise Mr. Mull on insecticide application.**

#### **402/404 Anderson Ave.:**

- Mr. Morin noticed that a large, fully-leafed out tree has turned completely brown.
- Mr. Kusko looked and noticed that the sidewalk had been newly replaced.
- Mr. Westerman thinks the tree will not recover due to the removal of the roots and subsequent drought.
- This tree is a good example of why the Borough needs to enforce no root removal on sidewalk replacements.
- **Mr. Morin will take a picture for future reference.**

#### **509 Carlisle Ave. (Ms. Marino):**

- TAC discussed this tree at the May 9 meeting.

- The recommendation was that the tree looks healthy, but could get a structural trimming if the homeowner wanted to pay for it.

#### **Tree Contractor Bid Packet (Ms. Gibbons):**

- Ms. Gibbons has gotten two quotes.
- One more quote is needed before entering into a contract.
- One more quote is expected from Lords.

#### **2011 Budget:**

- \$3400 spent on tree work in June.
- Mr. Morin and Mr. Kusko questioned why the year to date encumbrances is listed as \$11,901 even though much less has been turned in as completed work.
- Mr. Nease suggested that essentially encumbrances and remaining budget together is what is still left for tree work (approximately \$20K).
- Mr. Nease also thinks that Council would allocate more money if necessary to clean up the 2009 list.
- Mr. Morin and Mr. Kusko are concerned about whether the 2009 list will get cleaned up. The issue has more to do with the rate at which work is being completed than the amount of money available. Mr. Kusko also expressed some concern with the amount of work that has occurred which was never on the list of needed services.
- The TAC would really like to see the 2009 list completed during this calendar year.
- **Ms. Gibbons will follow up with Mr. Watson relative to insuring that all of the tree work is completed.**

#### **Reeves Park Damage:**

- Trees that were damaged are still holding on.
- **TAC will continue to monitor those trees.**

#### **Tree Inventory Update:**

- Mr. Kusko and Mr. Hott are meeting on Wed., July 13 at 1:30 to discuss a 2011 update to the tree inventory.

#### **Tree Planting Fact Sheet:**

- Mr. Morin suggested putting together a one-page care sheet that could be handed out to homeowners.
- Ms. Gibbons suggested putting together a little article for the fall newsletter.
- **Mr. Morin will work on writing up the fact sheet and/or article.**

Meeting closed at 8:04 pm