

Borough of Phoenixville

Tree Advisory Commission

August 8, 2011

Start Time: 6:30 pm

Attendance: Commissioners – Paul Kusko, Joan McCracken, Randy Morin; Borough Manager – Jean Krack; Staff Liaison - Melissa Gibbons

Action items in **bold**.

Tree Ordinance Amendments (Mr. Krack):

- Mr. Krack presented the amended ordinance with comments from TAC to the Policy Committee.
- Since Mr. Evans was absent from Policy Committee meeting the Committee held the discussion until the Sept. meeting.
- Mr. Krack expects the ordinance to be passed by around October, 2011.

Tree Service Request Response Letter and Service Applications (Mr. Krack):

- Mr. Krack wonders if the response letter can be handed out to folks without a signature (e.g., as a memo rather than an official letter).
- **Ms. McCracken will send out the response letter and service applications to all homeowners who have submitted tree requests.**
- **The Borough will begin giving them to all property owners that request service on regulated trees.**

Poison Ivy – 125 Starr, 4th and Main, Starr and Church, 219 Anderson (Mr. Krack):

- **Streets department will cut poison ivy vines and spray the base. Then as the vine dies they will try to pull it out of the trees.**

Farmer's Market Area (Mr. Krack):

- Discussion about property between bike trail and parking lot...
- I wasn't able to capture this.

1231 Madison Ave.:

- Mr. Krack agrees with TAC recommendation from July TAC meeting.
- **Water department needs to look at the situation to see if we can solve the water shut-off issue and avoid removing the tree.**

July Minutes Review:

- Mr. Morin sent the draft minutes from the July meeting out on July 12, 2011.
- Mr. Kusko made a few suggested edits on Aug. 7, 2011.
- Minutes approved as amended.

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

Completed Work Orders (Mr. Kusko):

- 2 packets of completed work orders including 5 removals and 15 trims (approx. ½ were on TAC service list and ½ were not).

Trees Along Trail at Farmers Market:

- The four dead trees near Taylor Alley and trail along French Creek were not removed yet.
- **Paul cut those trees down himself after the Green Festival.**

402/404 Anderson Ave.:

- Tree was removed during July.

Corner of 5th Ave. and B Street (137 5th Ave.):

- Homeowner (Ms. Steinmeyer) wants tree removed because it causes drainage issues.
- Mr. Kusko looked at the tree and found that it is a mature, healthy oak.
- He also advised her with some ideas on how to alter drainage and suggested that one large branch could be removed from above the driveway.

1205 Harrison:

- Homeowner had sewer line replaced. During that replacement tree roots were removed. Homeowner is now concerned that tree will fall on his house.
- Mr. Kusko inspected tree and found it to be mature and healthy.

363 2nd Ave – Tree at 361 2nd Ave (Christopher Nelson):

- Mr. Kusko noticed some pruning could be done to remove some dead over sidewalk and back from roof. Hazard rating is relatively low.

222 Main St. (Renee Halleren):

- Homeowner suggests that tree has dead branches that need to be removed.
- Mr. Kusko inspected tree and agrees that some dead branches should be removed. Hazard rating is relatively low.

95 2nd Ave. (Dorothy Wood):

- Mr. Kusko inspected tree and found large lead coming off lower trunk of tree over walkway. He would recommend pruning that branch.

Fall TreeVitalize Grant (Mr. Morin):

- Mr. Morin will look at tree planting requests and try to order at least 10 trees.

- One tree needs to be replaced on Gay St. next to old school (replace with Tilia if possible; red maple otherwise).
- Possibly a tree at new pavilion in Morris Park
- Possibly a tree near new pavilion near Manavon/Fisher Park.
- Ms. McCracken's house.

2011 Budget:

- \$4300 spent on tree work in July.
- \$16,500 left for 2011.

Reeves Park Damage:

- Mr. Kusko reviewed June and July Borough Council recordings regarding Reeves Park.
- All conversations focused on ball fields but despite TAC efforts tree root damage was not mentioned.
- **Mr. Kusko will bring this issue up to Borough Council during August meeting.**

Phoenixville Green Fest:

- TAC held an information booth during the festival.
- Identified a horticulturist from Villanova who might be interested in serving on the TAC.
- Identified several residents who were interested in volunteering during planting events.
- Shared information about the PHS 1 Million Trees effort.

Planning Commission Plans for Renaissance Academy ball field and :

- Mr. Kusko brought in plans in case TAC members want to comment on landscaping regarding trees.

Meeting closed at 8:02 pm