

**Borough of Phoenixville  
Shade Tree Commission  
Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2011**

Start Time: 6:35 PM

End Time: 8:20 PM

Attendance: Commissioners Paul Kusko, Joan McCracken. Staff Liaison, Melissa Gibbons, Parks & Rec. Dept.; Steven Nease, CFO. Excused: Commissioner Randal Morin

**Public Comment:**

Eric Dathe, 1215 S. Main St.: Two large Silver maples in very poor condition on the City Line side of his house. Borough removed one tree and trimmed some limbs of the remaining tree but didn't finish. He claims that Mr. Bannan, the tree contractor, said he would come back to do more. There is a huge limb towering over his house that was supposed to be trimmed to take the weight off. Since then another large limb has come down and would have hit his car had he been home. He is requesting that the large limb over the house be trimmed immediately. **(TAC will contact the Public Works Director, to find out what the status of this service request is.)**

Dave Patton, 1210 Dorothy Ave.: States he has an old borough tree that is disfigured by PECO cuts and the tree is lifting his sidewalk. He has submitted a request for a permit to remove the tree and stump at his own expense. He is requesting the TAC to approve his request. **(TAC will conduct a field visit and make a recommendation on the permit request.)**

Rick Rice, 42 Robarts Drive: Stated he has been going back and forth with the borough for three years now over having his tree serviced. He said it was denied, and then the borough manager told him it would be trimmed. Recently a limb fell on his vehicle and caused \$400.00 in damage. He wants assurance that he is on the "open service list" and that the tree will be trimmed. His first priority would be removal, second trimming. **(TAC will check with the Borough Manager and its service records to relative to the service and status for the tree at 42 Robarts.)**

Minutes Review: Meeting of August 8, 2011: Minutes were accepted. **(Mr. Morin will distribute copies of approved minutes and post to the web site.)**

Shade Tree Service Requests:

513 Virginia Ave. Dead Tree: Tree has been removed

332 Griffen St., Coll – prune permit: TAC recommended that the permit for home owner pruning be approved.

101 S Main St, Phoenixville Wells Fargo building – prune permit: Permit request not received. No action at this time.

222 Main St, Halloran – prune permit: TAC recommended that the permit for home owner pruning be approved.

Hurricane/storm Damage: Four trees at these locations, 9 01 Gay St., 240 Griffen St., 300 Grant St., And 1025 Gay St.: were toppled during recent storms. All trees were removed. Stumps and sidewalks will be addressed.

Follow-ups:

Completed work orders: *(Kusko)*: Work reports show that 5 trees were removed during the month of August, 4 of which were emergency storm related.

Record keeping: Mr. Kusko reported that even though there is a borough moratorium on accepting tree service requests, all requests received are being logged into our records as they are helpful to the Commission in assessing the health of the Borough's tree inventory. 1231 Madison Ave., Vontor \_ request for removal for sidewalk replacement and water valve installation. **(No report)**

Poison Ivy issues: 125 Starr, 4<sup>th</sup> & Main, Starr @ Church (utility pole), 219 Anderson. **(No report)**

Inspection List: The borough received 2 applications for homeowner pruning and 6 new requests for tree service during the month of August. **(TAC will review the pruning permit applications. Residents requesting service were informed of the borough's present policy of not accepting tree service requests.)**

Plantings:

Fall Tree Vitalize Grant: (Randy): Mr. Morin reported that he has ordered 10 trees through the tree vitalize grant program at \$50.00/tree. The trees will be available November 10<sup>th</sup>. **(Melissa Gibbons to submit a \$500.00 purchase order request for the trees.)**  
Pruning reports: Tree Tenders reported 4 hours of elevation pruning to street trees on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave @ Barkley School in preparation for school year opening

Old Business:

- 1) Borough Tree Ordinance: Policy Committee: (*Kusko, McCracken*): The next step in revising the ordinance is to update the sections regulating planting guidelines. **(TAC is to review those sections and submit revisions to the Policy Committee.)**
- 2) TAC webpage link to tree pruning and removal request forms: Forms do not appear on web site. **(Mr. Nease to correct the problem.)**
- 3)
- 4) 2011 Budget – status report (*Gibbons*,) The current month report shows that \$8,940.00 is remaining in the tree services budget for finishing up the pre 2010 back log list. **(Mr. Kusko is to update the list and send it to Mr. Nease for review.)**
- 5) Reeves Park Issues: Ms. Gibbons reported that the application for use of Reeves Park now prohibits vehicles from the park.

New Business:

- 1) Training Class: field protocols for obtaining quick and reliable estimates of tree condition and tree load potential. Tree Commissioners unable to attend. Not known at this point if a staff member or members will attend. **(Ms. Gibbons & Mr. Nease to follow up with staff.)**
- 2) 2012 Budget: Mr. Nease reported that Council's direction is to hold the line to 2011 budget levels. **(Mr. Kusko will present tree service request data for budget estimates.)**
- 3) Fall leaf raking project: Ms. McCracken reported that she is planning to provide leaf raking services to senior citizens and handicapped people who have borough trees. She is in the process of contacting volunteers. **(Ms. McCracken to recruit volunteers and then make assignments to those seniors needing assistance.)**

Adjournment: 8:20 PM