

Borough of Phoenixville

Tree Advisory Commission Meeting

January 10, 2018

Attendance: Commissioners – Craig Brown, Randy Morin, Eileen Kollmer, Joseph Lynch, Joseph Christopher; Borough Representative - Brian Watson; Volunteer – Paul Kusko

Action items in **bold**.

**Public Comment:**

- None

**November Minutes Review:**

- Nov. minutes have been approved and posted to the Borough website.

**Budget Update:**

- 2018 includes approximate \$72K for tree services plus an additional \$120K for the removal and replacement plan (the split between removals and replacements is expected to be \$100K/\$20K).
- Backlog is still at about 60 trees.

**Tree Ordinance and Manual (Jean Krack):**

- The language in the new Ordinance was borrowed from many places (mostly Lancaster).
- The Manual is intended to explain how to handle the overall management of the Borough's tree resources not just the removal and replacement plan.
- Jean is requested that the TAC to review the ordinance and needs comments by March Infrastructure Committee meeting.
- **TAC members should review the draft documents and be ready to discuss at the Feb. TAC meeting.**
- **Randy will ask Jean for a digital copy of both documents so that TAC members can comment on Google Drive.**

**Tree Removal and Replacement Plan (Jean Krack):**

- The TAC will be leaned on heavily to develop and implement the tree removal and replacement plan.

**Meet with Beautification Advisory Commission:**

- BAC wants to increase collaboration.
- BAC is interested in seeing more evergreens in the Borough.
- TAC explained how evergreens don't work well as street trees but suggested parks, trails, and other open areas could be a place to start.
- Craig brought up the suggestion of giving away evergreens in order to increase evergreen canopy on private property.

- Paul suggested that a landscape plan for parks that guides planting is lacking.
- BAC suggests working with the Parks Committee to come up with comprehensive plans that include evergreen tree plantings.
- Dept. of Parks did a study of the parks and has a list of things that should be done. **Randy will contact Melissa Gibbons to get copies of these maps.**
- BAC/TAC could work together to develop a landscape plan for a park as a pilot project.
- Examples include the new “pocket park” next Vecchia. Lou asked that TAC keep an eye out for other potential locations.
- Randy suggested trees along the new bike trail as a potential location. Paul mentioned that there is already a plan for the trail that includes historical facts about way stations and that we might be able to offer input about trees.
- Paul mentioned the Farmer’s Market area (bring green in from across Mill St.)
- Rowan Park and/or Farmer’s Market could be first projects.
- **Paul will work with Eric Schmidt to set up a time to meet to discuss developing a plan for Rowan Park.**

#### **Green Club:**

- Green Club members want to help with more volunteer opportunities.
- Brian will have his crew make 100 stem guards.
- TAC will plan some locations and try for Feb. 10th to work on pruning with the Green Club.
- **Brian will check into whether we need to have the kids sign liability forms.**

#### **Fall Planting De-Brief:**

- Need more volunteers next time (only had 8 volunteers).

#### **TD Green Streets Grant:**

- Application for \$20K was submitted in Dec. 2017.

#### **Tree City USA:**

- Application was submitted for the 10th year including another growth award.

#### **TAC Membership Guidelines:**

- Randy sent the guidelines to Brian so that he could share them with Jean.
- No update.

#### **Spring Inspections and Permit Applications:**

- 1215 Main Street - removal request; **TAC to reinspect**
- 470 Grant Street - Removal request; **TAC to reinspect**
- 1206 Tyler - removal request; **TAC recommends inspecting this tree in the spring.**
- 2 trees on Emmett that are extremely dangerous (Joseph)

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm