

Borough of Phoenixville

Tree Advisory Commission Meeting

February 12, 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.

January Minutes Review:

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

Budget Update:

- \$121K is in the budget for year 1 of the 12-year replacement plan.
- \$72K included for “regular” TAC recommended work.

EAB Treatment:

- Joseph C. suggests we get multiple bids.
- **Randy will contact Bartlett for a quote for the 2018 treatments.**
- **Randy will send the list of trees to Joseph C. so that he can get a couple of quotes.**

Spring Tree Planting:

- Order for 25 trees was placed.
- Planting event will be April 21st, 2018.
- **TAC will give Brian locations for pre-digging by April 1st.**
- Paul has requested 2 willow oaks to be planted on Virginia Ave (850 Main and 240 Virginia).

Tree Ordinance and Manual:

- Brian suggests drafting a letter to Jean with our concerns.
- Brian expects to get Steve started on replacement plan in June.
- Long discussion about the major issue at hand. Should the tree ordinance include the Borough keeping financial responsibility for public tree planting, maintenance, and removal? The TAC unanimously agrees that the Borough should maintain control of the management and the cost of public tree management. Despite this the Council is moving towards shifting the financial burden for public tree management to the homeowners. TAC agrees to draft a response to submit to Jean and Council.
- **Randy will send out draft response to the TAC for comments and editing. We need to submit the letter to Jean by March 5th in order to get into Council’s “packet” for the March 13th meeting.**

Tree Removal and Replacement Plan:

- Brian wants to start by removing dead and/or dying and large, butchered trees (e.g., PECO pruning).
- TAC also needs to begin developing planting needs. Paul suggests coming up with “block plans.”
- Eileen suggests marking trees prior to removal.
- **TAC will develop a list of needed removals by late April/early May.**

Collaboration with Beautification Advisory Commission:

- **Paul will work with Eric Schmidt to discuss developing a tree planting plan for Joe Rowan Park.**

Winter Pruning:

- TAC and PAHS Environmental Club pruned trees along 4th Ave. between Gay and Buttonwood (plantings from 2010).
- Paul helped the Streets Dept. crew prune trees on Virginia Ave.
- Craig pruned recent plantings in Reeves Park.
- **TAC will continue to work with the Environmental Club to do more pruning over the next few months.**

TD Green Streets Grant:

- Grant application was NOT funded.

TAC Membership Guidelines:

- 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).
- 253 Morgan - two small trees growing very close together.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm