

Borough of Phoenixville

Tree Advisory Commission Meeting

August 13, 2018

Attendance: Commissioners – Craig Brown, Susan Di Cerchio, Joseph Christopher; Borough Representative - Brian Watson; Volunteers - Paul Kusko, John Westerman; Absent - Randy Morin, Joseph Lynch

Action items in **bold**.

Public Comment:

- Ms. Yanchenk came in to discuss the tree at 519 Reeves. The tree was on this past month's inspection list. The tree is a high hazard since and seems to be suffering from rot, leaf scorch, and has large dead limbs. The TAC approved recommending this tree for removal. It will be removed most likely before the end of the year and will be replaced with a smaller variety of tree as part of the Tree Replacement Plan.
- Mr. Williams of 901 Gay Street came in to discuss his tree request. From the inspections that were done this past month, the TAC agreed that his tree along Gay Street should be removed. It has been given to the Borough as a removal recommendation with a high hazard rating. The TAC will examine another tree at this same address on the Griffen Street side for the September meeting.

July Minutes Review:

- July minutes were approved and posted to the web.

Budget and Invoices:

- Randy submitted a draft budget for 2019

New Tree Ordinance Proposal:

- After the Policy Committee revised language in the new proposed ordinance, it has been reposted to the Borough's website. Public comment on the ordinance will be welcome at the Council meeting on Tuesday, August 14. There was discussion about finding volunteers to possibly help with some of young-tree prunings that the ordinance suggests should be done by the homeowners, and to better provide information to the public on basic care of newly planted trees. To this end, **Brian will put the TAC in touch with the new media person the borough just hired.**

Tree Replacement Plan:

- Susan and Randy submitted an article about the Tree Replacement Plan for the fall newsletter.
- The Borough has completed its application to the local nursery and now has two local sources for tree purchases.
- **Craig will contact the nurseries with a proposed order for the Fall Planting - approximately 55**

trees.

- **John Westerman has offered to send in a list of recommended medium-sized trees to the TAC help with this initial order.**
- **Craig and Susan will work from the TAC's current list of available planting sites and will add and delete from it as needed.** It is felt that there will be greater availability of trees for next spring and fall than there is for this fall, and that more streetscape-planning can be done over the winter ahead of next year's plantings.

EAB Treatment:

- The Borough has been invoiced for its Ash Tree treatment. The invoice total came in below the amount budgeted for the treatment.

Tree Permits:

- According to John Westerman, a few people who have hired him recently for tree removal permits are requesting that he not grind the stump after removing the tree in order to save money. According to Brian, the removal permits are awarded to the homeowner, not the arborist, and so this may be requested. However, after a short period of time after the tree is removed, the homeowner will actually be out of compliance with the ordinance. The issue may then be taken up by the Codes Department.

August Inspections:

407 Park - Resident requests the pruning of an oak tree. **The TAC does not think that this is a borough tree.** The tree is not in the right-of-way and does not show up in the Borough's most recent tree inventory.

519 Reeves - prune or remove unhealthy oak tree. **TAC recommends adding to the Tree Replacement Plan.**

901 Gay - removal request. **The TAC recommends removing the hazardous dead tree at this address - high hazard.**

1105 Lane - This tree is already on the Tree Replacement Plan's removal list

The following trees will be re-inspected for the September meeting:

178 Chester - pruning request

340 Washington - removal request of two trees along Lincoln

424 Anderson - removal request

1155 Callowhill - pruning request of large branch over house

1212 Monroe - pruning request of large branch over house

1240 Madison - pruning request for two trees

59 Pennsylvania - two year reinspection

234 Griffen - two year reinspection

731 Valley - - two year reinspection

1264 Tyler - two year reinspection

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm