

Borough of Phoenixville

Tree Advisory Commission Meeting

February 9, 2023 7:00 PM

Attendance: Commissioners – Mary Foote, Randy Morin, Susan Di Cerchio; Borough Representatives - Jennifer Logan, Jean Krack, Brian Watson, Alexis Strunk; Council Representative - Beth Burckley; Contract Arborist - Mike Dunn; Public Participants

Action items in **bold**

January Minutes Review:

- January minutes were approved.
- **Jennifer will finalize the January minutes on the website.**

TAC Member Update/Roles:

- Gary Kimber is moving from Jenkintown to Phoenixville. He has served on the Jenkintown TAC and volunteered at a Fall planting. He is interested in joining when he moves to Phoenixville in March.
- Susan has drafted up the methods for planning volunteer and contract planting events. The goal of the document is to help a new TAC member navigate the planting process and to improve communication with the Borough staff. The Borough has some feedback that will improve the document. **TAC will take that feedback and update the document to share at the next TAC meeting.**

Arborist Update:

- Brandywine uploads a PDF report after each inspection. These are available through Civic Clerk.
- Updates on public questions from last month:
 - 1007 Callowhill St. (Sue Tyson) - Tree #1605 at 1009 Callowhill is beautiful but huge. She wonders when it might get removed; Mike inspected and has recommended pruning our dead wood and maintenance of oversize branches. **Mike inspected and still feels that the pruning can mitigate risk.**
 - 1205 Monroe Ave - Tree #1946; resident has submitted multiple requests; tree drops lots of branches and she is concerned about the large branches; Mike inspected and has recommended pruning out dead wood and oversize branches. **Jean and Borough employees inspected the tree and noted that the tree is very large, but is still healthy and structurally intact.**
 - 1206 Monroe (Amanda Brown) - Trees #1943 and #1942; Trees have dropped large live branches, not just dead ones. Tree is also impacting the sewer line. The one near the driveway is also damaging the sidewalks and driveway. Mike inspected and has recommended pruning out dead wood and oversize branches. **Jean and Borough employees inspected the tree and noted that the tree is very large, but is still healthy**

and structurally intact.

2023 Tree Removal List:

- 2023 removal list is up to 125.
- The Borough has a goal to get the information posted on the website. **They are working on the process for this.**
- The number of removals needed for future years will be determined by Brandywine, TAC, and staff during 2023.

2023 Volunteer Pruning List:

- **Mary and Randy are with former TAC member, Craig Brown, to identify locations for a spring volunteer pruning event.**

Budget Report:

- \$28K for planting in 2023 (~\$4K for 2 volunteer planting leaves \$24K for contract plantings)
- \$4K will buy approximately 60 trees through Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.
 - Arbor Day planting on April 22nd and Fall planting in Nov.
- \$24K will buy approximately 100 trees including installation through Tree Authority.
 - Spring and Fall contract plantings

Fall Planting Update:

- 19 locations planted: mostly Church and High
- 19 locations have been requested for 1-call for the remaining 11 trees. **Tree Authority will be planting as weather permits.**

Spring Plantings:

- Randy and Mary found most of the 30 tentative sites for Spring volunteer planting. Order placed for 18 medium and 12 small.
- **Susan will take the lead on the Spring Contract planting (50 trees?)**

Arbor Day:

- TreeVitalize volunteer planting will be 4/22/23.

Public Comment:

- 1205 Monroe Ave (Colleen) - Tree #1946; resident has submitted multiple requests; tree drops lots of branches and she is concerned about the large branches. **Jean and Borough employees inspected the tree and noted that the tree is very large, but is still healthy and structurally intact. Mike inspected and has recommended pruning out dead wood and oversize branches.**
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- 100 block of Church St. (Donna) - given the crowded neighborhood she wanted to refuse the tree
- Morgan St (Jane Dugdale) - Earth Day event is the same day as the tree planting; she can help get volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50

Next meeting - Mar. 6, 2023 at 7 pm