

Borough of Phoenixville

Tree Advisory Committee Meeting

May 1, 2023

Attendance: Commissioners - Mary Foote, Susan Di Cerchio, Randy Morin, Jane Dugdale; Borough Representatives - Brian Watson, Alexis Strunk; Contract Arborist - Mike Dunn; Public Participants

Action items in **BOLD**

April Minutes Review:

- April minutes were approved.
- **Randy will submit the final version to Alexis for posting to the web.**

Public Comment:

- 329 Buchanan St. (along 2nd Ave) Tree #503 - tree is dropping lots of branches right at a busy bus stop; the tree has been on the pruning list but its location requires shutting down Nutt Rd; **Brian will make sure this tree is prioritized for maintenance.**
- 1279 Tyler Ave (Rich McWiggen) - large tree dropping branches; 2/3 of tree is dead; **Mike will inspect to determine whether to prune or remove.**

Arborist Update:

- They have been spending a lot of time conducting inspections (148) and have found about 70 more needed removals plus lots of prunes. Many of the oaks have Hypoxylon canker in addition to bacterial leaf scorch.

2023 Tree Removal and Pruning Lists:

- Borough has developed a 3-year Pear removal list
 - TAC has been reviewing the list, and Randy suggests that the list still has some non-pear species on it. Most if not all of the trees that are <6-7 inches in diameter are most likely not pear. No pear trees have been planted as part of volunteer or contract plantings in the last 15 years. **Mike says they will review the list to make sure only pears are removed.**
- Mike is putting together removal and pruning lists for 2023 contracts - about 300 prunes in Steve's list and +70 more removals for ProMark.

Budget and Invoices:

- No change

2023 Spring Plantings:

- Spring contract planting update
 - Susan found about 30 sites so far, but she hasn't placed the order due to the dry spring and concern about the size of the stock at Tree Authority. She suggested that we use the summer to get pits ready for the fall planting and try to do 60 or get extra pits ready for the next spring. **Susan will work through Alexis.**
 - Mike suggested some other nurseries: Harmony Hills, Watercrest (Jennersville), Hammells (Honey Brook) and contractor: All Seasons

- Spring volunteer planting summary
 - 30 trees were planted by volunteers and Borough staff on April 22nd, 2023 - [MAP](#)

2023 Fall Plantings:

- Volunteer Planting
 - **Randy will coordinate the PHS order and work with Alexis and Mary to plan locations.**
- Contract
 - **Susan will work through Alexis to plan Fall contract planting and/or prep of pits for Spring contract planting.**

Community Outreach:

- Susan represented the TAC at the Earth Day Festival at Reservoir Park on April 22nd, 2023.
- Beth Burckley is leading up a dogwood tree planting near the Veteran's Memorial at Reeves Park.
 - Details?

Trees at Rec Center:

- Contractors have been mulching with "volcanoes" which has had a negative impact on the trees planted around the new rec center.
- **Brian will reach out to Melissa at the Rec Dept. to get the stakes removed and mulch moved away from the tree trunks.**

Trees in Reservoir Park:

- Brian shared some info about tree removals at Reservoir Park near the dog park and MTB park. They will be clearing out "weedy" trees that are growing too close and damaging fences.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50

Next meeting - Jun. 5, 2023 at 7 pm