

Borough of Phoenixville

Tree Advisory Committee Meeting

May 6, 2024

Attendance: Commissioners - Mary Foote, Susan Di Cerchio, Randy Morin; Borough Representative - Brian Watson; Borough Council Liaison - James Carminito; Borough Arborist - Mike Dunn (Brandywine Urban Forest); Volunteer - Justin Gordon

Action items in **BOLD**

Public Comment:

- Robin Fetter, 329 Buchanan St (Tree #0503) - Resident was here a year ago about the tree at the corner of 2nd Ave, Nutt, and Buchanan; she has been requesting pruning due to large dead limbs for many years. Borough arborist recommended the tree for pruning. However, the need to shut down St Rd 29 in order to prune the tree has led to the delay. She is very concerned about the tree dropping dead limbs on children because there is a busy bus stop under the tree. **Brian will call Steve Bannan to see if he can get it taken care of quickly.**
- Steve Bails, 549 Chester Ave, Vlada Veljokic (Tree #2360) - owner put in a request to do some tree pruning; he has not heard anything back, but Mike has recommended pruning; 35 days ago the house had a sewer backup; Zoom drain has video evidence of tree roots invading terra cotta pipeline (cost of \$1600 to clear line); the recommendation is to have the sewer pipe replaced but tree is in the way. Mike recommended the homeowner explore whether the pipe can be sleeved in order to save the tree which is one of the healthiest on the block. Resident asks about when pruning could occur. **Brian suggests he will try to get the tree moved up the pruning list.**
- Steve Bails, 551 Chester Ave (steve@vtipphoto.com) Vlada Veljokic - ~24 pine trees are on a paper road and trees could fall on a Comcast line and another public tree; **Brian will research this and get back to Steve.**
- Bill Evans, 901 Gay St - received notice that they were eligible were 4 street trees; old stumps are still in the way to allow for tree planting; Bill suggests that a vertical stump grinder might be able to remove deeper root systems to allow for tree planting. TAC can explore options (FECON vertical stump grinder is one option).

April Minutes Review:

- Susan recommends approval of the Apr minutes.
- TAC votes to approve.
- **Alexus will post minutes to the website.**

Committee Update:

- Jennifer Chandler and Justin Gordon have submitted applications.

Arborist Update:

- Over 50% complete with the updated inventory and anticipate completion later in May.
- TAC will use the list of “potential tree pits” to develop a more comprehensive planting plan moving forward (see future plantings below).

Budget:

- New contractor for tree removals is almost in place: Davidheiser Construction Services

Future Plantings:

- James suggested developing a multi-year plan to plant out the sites once Brandywine has completed the updated suggested planting locations.
 - **We can use Brandywine Urban Forest’s upcoming tree planting location list along with the urban tree canopy map, and tree equity scores for the Borough’s districts to prioritize sites.**
- Fall Volunteer Planting ([map of potential sites](#))
 - TAC walked through Reeves Park and plans to plant about 15-18 more large trees in Reeves Park. Brian and James agree that adding more large trees to Reeves Park is a good plan.
 - Frisbee golf course designers are also interested in more large trees (5-10 trees).
 - Various street locations for planting requests and open tree pits

Volunteer Pruning:

- Justin has been tracking the pruning completed by our volunteer group.

Community Outreach:

- Susan, Justin, and Mary managed a table at the Earth Day Festival in Reservoir Park and made lots of connections with future volunteers including the high school ecological club.
- Dogwood Festival tree planting on May 16th, likely at 7 pm
 - **James will get more details from Beth including whether she wants the TAC to set up the info table/tent.**

New Business:

- Development at 375 Morgan St - has 5 street trees
 - Mike will take a closer look and make species recommendations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm

Next meeting - June 3, 2024 at 7 pm