

Borough of Phoenixville

Tree Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2024

Attendance:

Commissioners – Susam DiCerchio, Mary Foote, Jane Dugdale,
BC Liaison James Carminito
Guest/volunteer Justin Gordon
Borough Representatives - Brian Watson, Alexis Strunk,
Arborist: Mike Dunn
Call to Order: 7pm

May Minutes Review:

- A motion was made by M. Foote and seconded by J. Dugdale to accept the May minutes. The commissioners approved the minutes and S. DiCerchio will forward the PDF to A. Strunk to be posted on the website.

Public Comment

- Mr. and Mrs. Miller (203 Franklin) addressed a letter they received from PECO regarding trees to be pruned and one removed near their property. PECO has the right to do this to protect lines but Brian assured them any damage to sidewalks would be addressed by PECO. Discussion followed on the possibilities to replace the trees eventually.

Committee Updates/Discussions

- There is currently one opening on the commission and two people who have applied. These individuals (Justin Gordon and Jenn Chandler) have submitted applications. Their names were on the Personnel Committee agenda but the candidates had not been notified and were not in attendance so the discussion did not happen. A. Strunk will get it on the agenda again next month. James will reach out to J Chandler. The staff will reach out to both to invite to next Personnel Meeting. R Morin was reappointed at the last borough council meeting but had indicated that if both candidates were interested, he might be willing to step back. M. Foote to reach out to R. Morin to discuss and also check to see if he has the tree city stickers.
- A discussion on the last planting by borough workers was discussed. There are still issues of burlap not being removed. B Watson indicated the work is being fixed.
- S DiCerchio pointed out a tree at 211B Gay Street that needs to be straightened and staked. The pits on that same block all need additional compost. B Wilson to get this fixed.
- J Carminito asked if it was okay to cut back branches that are interfering with pedestrians. For safety's sake it was determined that members could go ahead and address those issues as come up around town.

Arborist Report

M. Dunn reported that the update on the inventory would be completed by the end of the week. New issues surfaced and 15 trees have been identified as needing urgent removal. B Watson replied that they would be put at the top of the list. In addition, 280 planting sites are identified for the commission to begin to address.

Another 15 new requests were reviewed and the report will be sent to the borough. M Dunn pointed out it appears the tree at 1223 Monroe has been partially removed. It was not identified as needing removal so was bad news since it was one of the healthiest on the street. No information was available as to who did the work.

Budget and Invoices:

- B Watson gave an overview of the budget to date. Approximately 50% of the pruning budget has been spent. There is still \$32,000 for the fall planting for contractor and PHS events. There are also funds available for community outreach. Some discussion followed on ways to keep the community up to date on the work.

Fall 2023 TRP Planting:

S DiCerchio will be speaking to Bates Landscaping (the new landscaping group in town who donated the tree for the dogwood fair planting). She will get a price for planting a fall batch of trees based on M Dunn's potential planting sites. This could be instead of the borough staff doing the planting.

Fall 2023 Volunteer Planting:

- M Foote and R Morin will be coordinating the planting list with an emphasis on large trees for Reeves Park. November 23rd is the planting date.

TRP Removal List:

- The new contract for tree removal is awarded to Davidheiser Construction. B Watson has been pleased with the communication to date.

Community Outreach:

- Nothing to report

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, Mary Foote