

Borough of Phoenixville

Tree Advisory Committee Meeting

February 3, 2025

Attendance: Commissioners - Mary Foote, Susan Di Cerchio, Justin Gordon, Jennifer Chandler, Randy Morin; Borough Representatives - Brian Watson, Alexis Strunk; Borough Council Liaison - James Carminito (absent); Contract Arborist - Mike Dunn, Brandywine

Action items in **BOLD**

November Minutes Review:

- Mary recommends approval of the November minutes. Justin seconds the motion.
- TAC votes to approve.
- **Randy will submit a PDF for Alexis to post minutes to the website.**

Public Comment:

- Bill Felton (tree at 28 Main St) - 1 year ago a branch came down in an ice storm and hit a car; he wants to know if the tree can be removed or pruned; He thinks it is a callery pear. If it is then it is already on the removal list. Bill also made some suggestions about streetscape/street trees: removing parking spaces and planting trees and /or bubble out corners for trees so that the tree canopy doesn't block the business fronts.
- Dana Waldman and Dan Wiser came to comment about the development plans for 100 School Lane. They expressed concern about the removal of many heritage trees in the Toll Brothers Kindergarten center site development plan. They would like to recommend some large trees be left on the site. They are planning to attend the upcoming Planning Committee meeting.

Committee Update:

- Jennifer Chandler has been officially appointed. We are a full committee again. Welcome Jen!
- Next month we will talk about the rotation of Chair and Secretary.

Arborist Update:

- Mike had no trees to review this month.
- Reviewed the development plan for 100 School Lane:
 - The report from Brandywine Urban Forest highlights the large difference between the current canopy cover (and environmental services) to what will be planted by the development plan (The plan removes hundreds of trees but only plants 174.
 - Specific recommendations include: tighter planting along roads (25-30 ft instead of 40 ft), planting 80% native species, and documenting the planting specifications.
 - Legally there is nothing that can be done to save the heritage trees on the site, but TAC and/or individuals can make requests for modifications to the plan.
 - **Susan suggests asking that the developer add a warranty or 'in perpetuity' clause so the developer has to make sure the trees are maintained for some time after planting. She will submit this to**

Mike so he can add it to an official TAC/Brandywine Urban Forest recommendation for the Planning Committee.

- Susan and Justin also plan to attend the meeting next Thurs (2/13/25).

Current Business:

- **2025 Tree Removal List:**

- The Borough is putting out a bid for the 2025 list since the contractor from 2024 did not renew.
- **Mike will inspect the Presidentials to update the list after leaf out.**

- **2025 Budget:**

- There was an increase in the budget for 2025 which will allow us to increase the size of contract tree plantings.

- **Community Outreach**

- TAC now has a dedicated area in the Public Works building for TAC stuff (buckets, tent, table, banners).

New Business:

- **Spring Volunteer Planting:**

- Spring planting will be on April 12, 2025 (20 med and large trees).
- **Let Randy know if you have ideas for park plantings or groups of street plantings.**

- **Contract Planting:**

- The ground froze so the Fall contract planting has not really gotten started yet.

- **Spring 2025 Tree Giveaway:**

- Historical Society? Randy to find out more details especially the logistics of seedling giveaways from this organization if we attend the next Earth Day.

- **Pruning**

- Justin has created a list of plantings from the last few years to help us plan pruning events.
- **Mike will generate a list of all trees 4" or less which can also help us plan.**
- **Mary will start to plan some pruning events on upcoming Saturdays.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm

Next meeting - Mar 3, 2025 at 6 pm