

Borough of Phoenixville

## Tree Advisory Meeting

Date: 4/7/2025

Attendance: Commissioners - Mary Foote, Susan Di Cerchio, Justin Gordon, Jennifer Chandler; Borough Representatives - Brian Watson; Borough Council Liaison - James Carminito; Contract Arborist - Mike Dunn, Brandywine. Community Members: Gary Kimber, Matt Gisondi, Vincent Tavani.

Action items in **BOLD**

### Minutes Review

- March minutes approved. Justin will send to Alexis.

### Public Comment

- Vincent Tavani: 457 West High Street. Part of April 26 Earth Day celebration planning for Green Team. Wants to put together a planting to support the theme of water retention in Reservoir Park- goal of planting is to slow water runoff and create bird habitat. They can get trees and volunteers, the Green Team just wants to get permission to plant in Reservoir Park. **Vincent will need to run planting locations by Melissa - Mary is going to facilitate.** This may be a 2026 goal.
- Gary Kimber and Matt Gisondi: 325 Lexington Drive. Representative for East Pikeland Township - Matt is Lands Foreman for the Township. They have started a Tree Tenders chapter in East Pikeland Township. They have issues picking up trees when they order them due to limited worker availability. They would like to pair up with Phoenixville to have trees delivered. East Pikeland Township would order trees when Phoenixville orders, Phoenixville would pick them up and East Pikeland Township would get them from Phoenixville. East Pikeland Township could possibly cover some of the mileage cost. The earliest order they would do is a fall order for no more than six trees. Brian says that this should work, but he will need information from Tree Tenders to make the order. Matt will contact Brian to order for fall.

### Committee Update

- Susan:
  - Should we consider removing the tree guards from last fall's Reservoir Park and Reeves park plantings? Mike Dunn says to take the guard off to prevent overheating the trees and replace them with 5' tall welded wire. Brian says he can get the supplies, but suggests we get volunteers to replace guards.
  - Missing tree on 200 block of Gay Street - tag number might be 0681.

- Zip tie on 0682 is too tight.
- Numerous trees on Church street between Gay and Main need to be pruned.
- Justin:
  - Question about empty tree pits on Gay street - Mary said they are now filled.
  - For Tree City status, we need an Arbor Day proclamation from the Mayor. **Mary will contact Mayor to see if he can sign the proclamation and/or sign at the tree planting or at Green Fest.**

## Arborist Update

- Twelve trees were reviewed. Two were recommended for removal. One Northern Red Oak (tree number 2354) on Chester Ave between Harrison and Garfield is dead (address: 535 Chester Ave). Tree 2479 on Land Ave between Griffin and Reed has declined and is high priority for removal. Other ten trees are recommended for maintenance and pruning.
- Mike Dunn took Morris Arboretum Urban Forestry position. Congrats, Mike!

## Current Business

- 2025 Tree Removal List
  - Yellowstone is new tree feller company that Phoenixville is using. They are putting together a schedule for removal.
- Spring Volunteer Planting April 12, 2025
  - Meet at Reeve's Park between 8:15 - 8:30 - disperse into 3 separate parks. Two Borough trucks available.
  - **Justin will pick up coffee and donuts for the event**
- Budget Report
  - Supplies purchased, but not in Brian's ledger at this point. \$1,000 available for community education. \$1,500 spent on purchase of trees for spring planting. We need to look into hiring contractors for next non-volunteer planting in the fall. Mike suggests All Seasons. There are still 251 planting locations outside of parks. 120 trees planted in parks and elsewhere last year.
- Community Outreach
  - TAC will table for Earth Day at Reservoir Park 4/26 from noon - 4. Brian will bring the tent, tables, and sign to the site day of. Set up starts at 10:00am. **Susan, Justin, Mary (2-4) will volunteer. Jen will bring tree ring activity and tree ID books.**
  - Mike posted tree care literature on Borough Tree Inventory website - under educational materials.
  - Fall PHS planting will prioritize 100 block of 5th

## New Business

- None

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM  
Next meeting - May 5, 2025