

Borough of Phoenixville

## Tree Advisory Meeting

March 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; Contract Arborist - Mike Dunn, Brandywine

Action items in **BOLD**

### Minutes Review

- Mary recommends approval of the February minutes. Jennifer seconds the motion.
- TAC votes to approve.
- Susan/Justin will submit a PDF to Alexis to post minutes to the website.

### Public Comment

- Jim Dolan came to check on the status of the borough tree marked for removal at 326 Griffen St. He reports that the tree has been in bad shape since 2020, dropping limbs on his property and vehicle and he is concerned about more limbs falling. He'd like the tree removal expedited. Brian reports that the tree removal bid has gone out and a contractor will be selected soon to start work. This tree will be prioritized.

### Committee Update

- Justin gave an update on the March Planning Commission meeting where he attended to share TAC's recommendations verbally regarding the 100 School Lane development. He reported that the Planning Commission shares many of TAC's concerns over the plan including the tree spacing, species selection, and tree protection. Justin reported that the Planning Commission is interested in working with Mike as Borough Arborist to verify/take stock of the existing trees on the property.
- **Mike will send the recommendations regarding the 100 School Lane development to the Planning Commission on behalf of the TAC.**
- Susan appointed Justin as Chairperson and Jennifer as Secretary for the next one year term with no objections from the TAC.
- James reiterated the recent budget changes, including the increase in budget for repair and maintenance. Brian recommended using funds to improve the tree wells on Bridge Street.

## Arborist Update

- Mike inspected a couple of trees requested for pruning.
- Mike gave comments on the Beckenridge Tower development. He noted that the Existing Condition Report does not include the borough tree on it and that there are no landscape plans to comment on.
- Susan and Justin would like to recommend adding tree wells for street trees. Mike recommends considering asking the developer to add a soil well requirement for the street trees.
- Susan asked about the possibility of increasing the tree well size like was done at the new development on the old borough building, but encroachment on the sidewalk and resulting accessibility concerns were raised.
- Mike will send comments to Planning Commission.

## Current Business

- Susan signed up for a table for TAC at Earth Day on Saturday, April 26, Noon to 4:00 pm. Community interaction and time slots will be decided next meeting.
- The volunteer planting is planned for Saturday, April 12.
- Jen recommended volunteer tree plantings at Morris Street Park. Justin recommended Cascaden Park. **Justin and Jen will give Randy their recommendations.**
- Mary said the last volunteer pruning on Saturday, March 1 went well. The next volunteer pruning will be held Saturday, March 8 at 10:30 am.
- Mary asked about the logistics and rules of volunteers under 18 years of age. **Brian will check.**

## New Business

- Susan expressed gratitude for the volunteers and borough at the recent Reeves Park and Reservoir Park volunteer tree planting event. She thought it went smoothly and everyone enjoyed the event.

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm

Next meeting - Monday, April 7, 2025 at 6:00 pm