

Borough of Phoenixville

Tree Advisory Meeting

June 2, 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

Action items in **BOLD**

Minutes Review

- Minutes approved

Public Comment

- Sharon Pronchik and Ryan Mercovich (233 Fourth Avenue) in attendance. Request was made for more protection of existing, large trees and planting of larger-bodied species. Mention of a row of trees along 2nd Ave and Starr (on the border of Reeves Park) that were girdled by Borough-hired contractors using string trimmers. Watson ensured that he would mention this to the contractor.
- Bill Evans (901 Gay Street) in attendance. Requested update on planting schedule for the four trees that will go in near his home, and requested species information on the trees. **Strunk will provide species information.** Contracted planters are still working to catch up with planting needs.

Committee Update

- Arborist, Mike Dunn, will work on a month-to-month contract with the Borough. Inspections and recommendations will continue. Dunn will attend TAC meetings on an as-needed basis.
- 2024 Borough Planting update: Approximately 70 trees from the Fall 2024 season remain at the composting site. Contractor needed to expedite planting. **Strunk will forward planting contractors to Di Cerchio who will get a price per tree for planting. Watson will follow up with plans for the contractor once he hears from Di Cerchio.**
- Resignation: Due to changing work schedules, Randy Morin will be resigning from TAC, though he will still be active in volunteer activities.
- Deer Guards in Reeves and Reservoir Park: Black deer guards need to be removed from trees as Reeves Park. Removal is also necessary at Reservoir Park, but must be replaced with wire guards. **Di Cerchio will inspect wire meshing at the compost site and then report back with plans.**

- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB): Last EAB treatment occurred in 2022. Treatment needs to occur every two years. The proposal was made to select a small group of healthy ash and treat in the 2025 growing season. Potential “treat” trees include those on Mill Street, the intersection of Gay and Griffen, and the intersection of Gay and First Ave. **Morin will compile the final tree list, get a quote from Bartlett Tree Experts, and update Watson how much money is needed from the budget.**
- Black Knot Fungus: Observed black knot fungus on two cherry trees along Starr Street (1001 and 0750). **Randy will check with Bartlett Tree Experts on the cost for treating these trees along with the EAB treatments.**
- Japanese maple near canons in Reeves park needs pruning to remove dead limbs.
- Tree at 1229 Madison Ave is nearly dead, but is not on the tree removal list. **Request arborist inspection.**
- Fall 2025 Volunteer/Contract Planting: Trees must be ordered from PHS in July/August. Planting focus will be on the 200 block of Fifth Street. Foote will help ID planting locations this week. We will take the opportunity to replace four trees that died after planting in Reeves park.

Arborist Update

- N/A

Current Business

- 2025 Tree Removal List
 - Contractor still working to finish list
- Budget report
 - No change
- Community Outreach
 - Needed volunteer opportunities include a day for removal of black tubes at Reeves Park and Reservoir Park, and a volunteer pruning day.

New Business

- N/A

Meeting adjourned at 6:50

Next meeting - July 7, 2025