

Borough of Phoenixville

## Tree Advisory Meeting

Date: 2025/07/07

Attendance:

Committee Members: Mary Foote, Susan Di Cerchio, Justin Gordon, Jennifer Chandler, Heidi Warning; Borough Representatives - Brian Watson, Alexis Strunk; Borough Council Liaison - James Carminito; Contract Arborist - Mike Dunn, Brandywine Urban Forest (not in attendance).  
Community Members in attendance: John McDevitt, Mike McGovern

Action items in **BOLD**

### Minutes Review

- June meeting approved.

### Public Comment

- John McDevitt - No comment. Attending to observe
- Mike McGovern (405 West Anderson Ave.) - Here to learn about Borough trees, how we make our decisions.

### Committee Update

- Heidi Warning, our newest TAC committee member, introduced herself and described her interest in data analyses and in social media for TAC.
- Arborist Involvement - Committee member Chandler brought up the importance of having the Borough arborist present at meetings to provide their insight into actions that the Borough can take to continually improve shade trees throughout the Borough. Of particular interest is an arborist's expertise in working with land and property developers in the early stages of proposals and planning to ensure that not only are all development and planting plans up to code, but that the Borough is benefiting maximally insofar as trees and green spaces are concerned. An arborist is the expert in their field, and their knowledge and expertise is paramount for the success of the borough trees.
- Watson mentioned that volunteers are needed in order to remove suckers from the base of trees throughout the borough. **Mary will put together a volunteer event for 10:00 on July 26.** Remainder of committee members can tackle trees
- Need to focus on removal of solid black tree guards from existing saplings and replace them with mesh guards. **Watson mentioned that there are approximately 50 at the compost site that he will gather next week. Susan will arrange a volunteer day to replace all solid black tree tubes.**

- Approximately 20 trees remain to be planted. Borough residents seem to be happy with the progress, overall.
- Di Cerchio mentioned that several trees in Reeves Park have been damaged by the contractor's string trimming and suggested that a tree replacement clause be added into the next contract for any trees that die due to string trimmer damage.
- Borough now prefers to do all fall 2025 planting rather than hiring a planting contractor. The thought is that they can plant more trees with the money they would save from hiring a contractor. **Justin and Heidi will get a list of locations together for fall plantings based on Arborist's recommendations and based on addresses provided by public and committee members. List needs to be put together prior to the August meeting.** Planting should occur in late fall. Goal is to locate planting sites for 80 trees (though that number may be reduced depending on expenditure for emerald ash borer treatment). Cannot exceed \$22,000 for tree purchase.

## Arborist Update

- Inspections
- Foote commented that approximately four trees on 200 block Church Street are dead and need removal.

## Current Business

- 2025 Tree Removal List
  - Yellowstone continues tree removal. PECO will be removing approximately 40 large trees that interfere with electrical wires.
- Budget Report
  - No comment
- Community Outreach
  - Volunteer initiatives will be planned (fall planting, pruning, tree tube removal)
  - TAC might consider tabling during first friday events. Watson suggested that September and October are optimal for tabling.
- Emerald Ash Borer Treatment
  - Borough staff have inspected the ash and their opinion is to not treat the trees for EAB, see if they survive, and if they do not survive, borough will remove and replace. Committee members suggest that treatments occur on at least a large sub-sample of the ash. Any EAB treatment (would have to be paid out of the tree replacement budget (\$59,270 remaining)

## New Business

- Fall tree plantings - Foote is working with Alexis on getting planting letters to residents on 100 block of Sixth Street.

- Randy Morin is attending the PHS Tree Checkers event on the weekend of July 12. This meeting is required for work with PHS so that we can do an inventory of our surviving, planted trees.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm

Next meeting - August 4, 2025 at 6:00 pm