

Borough of Phoenixville

## Tree Advisory Meeting

September 3, 2025

Attendance: Commissioners - Mary Foote, Susan Di Cerchio, Justin Gordon, Jennifer Chandler, Heidi Warning; Borough Representatives - Brian Watson, Alexis Strunk; Borough Council Liaison - James Carminito

Action items in **BOLD**

### Minutes Review

- Approved.

### Public Comment

- No members of the public in attendance

### Committee Member Update

- Commissioner Cerchio thanked Watson for removal of pruned branches.
- Commissioner Warning is starting a M.S. program in spring, and her classes conflict with TAC meetings. A proposal was made to move TAC meetings to the first Tuesday of each month. Caminito and Wason will bring proposed date to borough and respond with any conflicts.

### Arborist Update

- Borough Representative Watson was not aware of the number of proposals in response to the RFP. The borough is reaching out to additional organizations.

### Current Business

- Budget Report
  - Money remains in the budget - in line with expectations for September
  - Funds paid to Yellowstone to remove dead trees that were not on our original list, but that need to be removed as an emergency.
  - \$59,000 in budget for fall tree planting.
  - We will likely have carry-over funds from this fiscal year to next.
- Fall Plantings
  - All trees from Fall 2024 are now in the ground.

- Gordon, Warning, and Cerchio have selected several locations for tree planting. **We will need to overestimate this number by 10-20% to ensure that there are sufficient planting locations.**
- **Strunk will reach out to Harmony Hill for catalog of species.**
- We need to stay under \$21,000 for fall order. **Watson will determine if putting in a second order in spring is doable.**
- Trees typically ordered from PHS, but they now require individual applications for each tree that will be planted. We will regroup and decide if moving forward with PHS is the wisest move in the future, or if we are able to make a bigger impact sourcing from elsewhere.
- We will only need one borough crew for the fall plantings, as there are only 5 trees being planted.
- **Commissioner Foote will reach out to Matt Gisondi with East Pikeland who has plans to order 10 PHS trees.** She will make sure he is aware of the new PHS regulations.
- Community Outreach
  - First Friday - October 3. **Watson will request a spot at First Friday for table and tent and will let us know location. Chandler, Warning, and Cerchio will be in attendance. We can do Commissioner Gordon's leaf rubbing activity to attract kids. Borough will drop off and assemble and tear down and pick up the tent.**

## **New Business**

- Discussion regarding bare root trees, 5-gallon containerized trees, and burlap bound trees. Purchasing burlap bound trees would have roots large enough to require equipment, and might reduce the number of volunteers that might benefit. Containerized might also be difficult for volunteer plantings. We will continue discussing which form might be ideal for our needs.
- Discussion about creating a tree farm in Phoenixville. Dig trees when they are large enough to plant as street trees. Cerchio proposed that a tree farm could be located near the mulching center. Watson indicated that Manager Jean Krack already plans to implement a tree farm in the compost site. The hope is to begin cleaning up the compost site in spring 2026.

Meeting adjourned at

Next meeting - 10/06/25 at 6:35 p.m.