

Borough of Phoenixville

## Tree Advisory Meeting

2025-10-06

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

Action items in **BOLD**

### Minutes Review

- Approval

### Public Comment

- None

### Committee Updates/Discussions

- First Friday
  - First Friday was a moderate success, but it seems our presence at Earth Day is a bigger bang for our buck. Discussion focused on whether our presence at environmental forums are bigger payoffs than First Fridays. It was decided that perhaps we can try to do both Earth Day and GreenFest next year.
- Bridge Street Street Trees
  - Street trees along Bridge are being mulched with Perke Pave material. Commissioner Chandler voiced concerns about placement of Perke Pave directly adjacent to the bole of each tree, but Representative Watson alleviated these fears by detailing that the material is porous and also flexes as trees grow in diameter, so it should not be an issue. Additionally, this material will reduce trip hazards.
- Potential change of TAC meeting night in Spring 2026
  - Although one member cannot make 3 meetings in spring, the Borough indicates that she can stay on TAC. Day/time of the meetings are not flexible in spring
- TAC meeting over winter
  - TAC will not meet in December or January. TAC will continue regular meetings in February
- No update on the search for an arborist - more internal discussion needed
- Newly-planted trees will get string-trimmer guards placed around their boles to prevent damage from crews. Representative Watson will confirm whether those guards are perforated to allow for air flow.

## Current Business

- 2025 Tree Removal List
  - 2025 list is almost complete. Only 5 trees slated for removal remain.
  - 2026 list is taking shape based on recommendations from the previous arborist.
- Fall Plantings
  - Eighty trees will be purchased and planted in fall 2025 by the Borough
  - Commissioner Gordon asked Borough representatives if there is a way to purchase more trees with the remaining funds without going to bid.
  - Commissioner Foote suggested that we reinstitute fall *and* spring borough plantings so that we are able to make use of our funds to plant more trees. TAC will begin work this November to identify favorable locations for spring 2026 plantings and will begin work in February to identify favorable locations for fall 2026 plantings.
  - Liaison Carminito suggested we use the excess budget in FY 26 to purchase saplings to populate the tree nursery and also to hire contractors to plant the saplings in the nursery. Representative Watson confirmed that this would be a viable option.
    - The nursery will need deer fencing - it's possible that the Borough might spend a portion of the remaining budget on deer fencing
    - The Borough will consult with TAC about potential sapling species
    - Volunteers might be utilized for nursery planting
  - PHS fall planting consists of five trees - Commissioner Foote will invite only a few volunteers to assist. These trees will go in on Fifth Ave on November 15, 2025.
- Budget Report
  - Approximately \$59,000 remains for fiscal year, with approximately \$20,000 being spent soon for tree purchases
    - The calendar year *is* the Borough's fiscal year
- Community Outreach
  - Social Media Plan
    - Borough will likely need TAC to post under their umbrella social media pages, but will read through the social media proposal that Commissioner Warning has developed.
    - Commissioner Warning emphasized the need for a more flexible, TAC-managed social media presence and shared the social media plan with Borough representatives. She mentioned that having a flexible social media page would allow us to inform the community about what we do and how we support the Borough

## New Business

- Fall Gathering of Environmental Advisory Council
  - Held on November 15, 2025. TAC's participation was requested. Presentation topic requested: How do we encourage survivability of trees in urban areas and a

review of Phoenixville's TAC. Commissioner Gordon will respond to their email to gather more information and will consider presenting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm

Next meeting - 11/03/25 at 6:00 pm