

Borough of Phoenixville

## Tree Advisory Meeting

Date 11/03/2025

Committee: Ms. Foote, Ms. Di Cerchio, Mr. Gordon, Ms. Chandler and Ms. Warning

BC Liaison: Mr. Carminito

Staff: Mr. Watson

### I. Call to Order

### II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- Minutes were approved

### III. Public Comment

- Kathleen Schmidt at 916 Woodlawn Ave - Tree #2069 was trimmed as expected in early October. Mrs. Schmidt mentioned that tree #2072 used to be on the prune list, but then it disappeared from the list without pruning. She wonders why the tree was removed from the list without pruning. **Mr. Watson will investigate the records.**
- Jim Veneski 911 Woodlawn Ave - Tree # 2068 was on the list for pruning. A few branches over the street were removed, but the branches over the houses were not, which presents a safety hazard. The tree is marked as complete on the list. **Mr. Watson will investigate the records.**

### IV. Committee Member Updates/Discussions

- Ms. Di Cerchio thanked Mr. Watson and the Borough for replacing tree tubes to prevent damage from deer in Reeves Park.
- Moving forward, how do we maintain data on trees (number assignment, database curation), while we don't have an arborist? How can the commission support this effort? Mr. Watson said that tags are ordered and they are awaiting delivery. Borough employees input tree numbers, but it is unclear if the GIS maps are being updated. Ms. Strunk will update us in January regarding how the GIS data are entered and queried. **Ms. Di Cerchio will send Ms. Strunk an email prior to the next meeting to inquire about data flow.**
- Ms. Di Cerchio inquired how the arborist search was going. Mr. Watson did not have information, but mentioned that the Borough is considering sending a current Borough employee to be trained as an arborist. Dr. Chandler mentioned that the person selected will need to be well trained in tree ecology, integrated pest management, and urban forest ecology in order to be effective.
- Ms. Warning mentioned that many corporations, including Vanguard, put together volunteer days where corporations put in person-hours to volunteer planting trees, pruning, weeding, etc. This would be during the work week, and would need TAC

oversight. How can we make it more apparent to corporations that we solicit volunteer days for their teams? The preference was to build up corporate volunteering in a more grass-roots way as opposed to advertising availability.

#### V. Current Focus Business

A. 2025 Tree Removal List - Approximately sixty trees remain on the Borough removal list. Ten high priority trees are left, and the rest are moderate priority. Yellowstone has agreed to a contract extension with the Borough next year for tree removal and clear up. PECO will be removing the "goal post" trees under power wires. We are in year 5 of 12 of the planned removals throughout the Borough, with high priority trees the initial focus.

B. Budget Report - \$40,568 remaining in budget for tree replacement after the \$19,000 tree purchase in October. If the money is unspent, Mr. Watson will work to have the money roll over to next year. The TAC budget for next year is not solidified at this point. If TAC would like to make suggestions about budgets from year-to-year, they are welcome to put a presentation together in summers to petition for important line items.

C. Community Outreach - Planting five PHS trees with 3 volunteers on November 11/15 at 8:30 am.

#### VI. New Business

A. Spring 2026 Planting - Need to begin planning in January. If we see spots for planting, send them to Justin. TAC needs to have 80 planting sites to Justin before February meeting.

B. Motion to cancel the December 1, 2025 Tree Advisory Commission Meeting - Motion approved.

#### VII. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: Monday, February 2, 2026 at 6:00PM