

YORK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-5

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF YORK CREATING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO  
TRIMMING OF TREES AND VEGETATION

The York Township Board of Commissioners, York County, Pennsylvania, enacts and ordains as follows:

Section 1. The Code of the Township of York is hereby amended by the addition of the following Chapter:

**CHAPTER 233  
TREES**

**§ 233-1. Responsibility for trimming trees; clearance over public ways; utility company rights.**

It shall be the duty of the owner or owners of every property located in the Township of York, York County, Pennsylvania, to trim or cut and keep trimmed or cut the trees standing along the street abutting the front, side or rear of said such property so that branches thereof shall have a clearance of at least 14 feet above the cartway or paved area of the street along said property and shall have a clearance of at least seven feet above the sidewalk area and shall so trim trees that they shall not obstruct street signs, streetlighting or interfere with the wiring or the proper maintenance of public utilities. The cost of such trimming shall be borne by the property owner except where the work is specially required to protect and maintain utility wires, in which case the cost shall be borne by such utility.

**§ 233-2. Alley encroachment prohibited.**

It shall also be the duty of the owner or owners of every property located in the Township to trim or remove all trees, shrubbery or hedges, or other growing things extending beyond the property line in any public street or alley of the Township in order that the entire width of the street or alley shall be available for traffic use or other authorized use.

**§ 233-3. Clear sight triangles at intersections.**

At all intersections of streets, private roads and/or access drives, a clear sight triangle shall be maintained in accordance with the York Township Code of Ordinances. It shall be the duty of the owner or owners of every property located in the Township of York, York County, Pennsylvania, to trim or cut and keep trimmed or cut the trees,

hedges, shrubs or other vegetation within the clear sight triangle in accordance with the York Township Code of Ordinances.

**§ 233-4. Township may remove obstruction or encroachments.**

The Township may also cause to be removed any trees, hedges, shrubbery or other vegetation in clear sight triangles, highways or alleys that are in violation of any section of the York Township Code of Ordinances or which obstruct street signs, traffic, streetlighting or are inconvenient or dangerous to the passing public.

**§ 233-5. Access to private property when required.**

Where it is necessary to enter upon private property in order to accomplish the said trimming, the work shall be done so as to comply with any reasonable requirements of the owner or tenants.

**§ 233-6. Township work at cost of defaulting owner.**

Should the property owner fail or refuse to properly trim trees, hedges, shrubbery or vegetation in accordance with the provisions of this article, the Township shall cause the same to be done and bill the property owner for the cost of same. Any delinquent bill for said charges shall become a lien upon the property and shall be collectible by the Township by an action in assumpsit against the owner of such property or be enforced against such property by the filing of a municipal lien.

**§ 233-7. Violations and penalties.**

Any person, firm, association or corporation who shall violate any provisions of the Chapter, upon conviction thereof in an action brought before a District Judge in the manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$600 plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 90 days. Each day that a violation of this Chapter continues, or each section of this Chapter which shall be found to have been violated, shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 2. Any Ordinance or part thereof, which conflicts with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby, to the extent inconsistent, repealed.

Section 3. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and if any of its sections, clauses, or sentences shall be held illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional, such provisions shall not affect or impair any of the remaining sections, clauses or sentences.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall become effective on October 14, 2014.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.

ATTEST:

YORK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS

Elizabeth Heathcote  
Secretary

By Robert D. Steele  
President

(SEAL)