

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING**  
**SHADE TREE COMMISSION**  
**September 11, 2018**

The Shade Tree Commission met on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at Borough Hall. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. with Ron Schweitzer, Lynne Burns, Chad Moyer, Public Works Director Dean Murray, and Borough Manager Cathy Hoffman in attendance.

**Visitors:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of the Minutes:**

- **Moved** by Mr. Moyer and seconded by Ms. Burns to approve the minutes of August 14, 2018.  
**Motion carried.**

**Oak Terrace Trees**

- The dead tree at the end of Oak Terrace still needs to be replaced.

**Trees to Be Planted**

- There are no more specific areas to be planted this year.

**Tree Removal**

- The two Silver Maple trees on Summit Street that have outgrown the planting strip are still scheduled to be removed by Borough Crew.
- A tree at 123 Olive that has a large wound and is showing signs of rot and infestation needs to be removed. Messner will be contacted for a price on removal because the tree is so large that equipment would have to be rented to remove and grind the stump.
- Mr. Murray will obtain pricing to remove the Sycamore trees on the south side of Buttonwood Street for the 2019 budget.

**Tree Trimming**

- Quotes have been requested from both Messner and Stoltzfus for Playground Drive and Wayne Avenue. Funds are still available for this line item.
- Mr. Murray has been looking for a grant to assist in the purchase of a larger bucket truck, however there is nothing available currently.
- Other requests for trimming that can be completed by Borough Crew will be done later in the season.

**Reading Hospital**

- The Hospital has removed the trees however the planting has not been completed.
- The Borough will be trimming several trees on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue along the Hospital campus. There is also one that needs to be removed on the west side of 5<sup>th</sup> near Pine Street.

**New Members**

- Council passed the ordinance increasing membership from three to five members and the two new Commission vacancies have been advertised on the Borough website as well as social media. Mrs. Hoffman stated that she had received an email of interest however when the particulars were given

concerning the meeting schedule, this person has not responded. It was stated that a change in the meeting time may be necessary. The Commission discussed this at length and it was suggested that previously interested persons be contacted again. Ms. Burns suggested that the Borough create an Instagram account that can be linked to the Facebook page to increase the number of people seeing the information.

#### **Spotted Lanternfly**

- The Borough has a number of the “Tree of Heaven” trees along the creek where the lanternflies have become pervasive. Spraying for them is not recommended because of the creek therefore trees are being taped to prevent the spread of the nymphs.

#### **Chestnut Street Trees**

- The sidewalk on the north side of the 400 block of Chestnut Street has recently been replaced, and a curvilinear bricked and grassed planting strip installed. This area will need to have trees planted, therefore members were asked to determine the species and number of trees that would best suit this area.

#### **Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

- The Commission will meet on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., with the meetings for November and December potentially being cancelled. Should new members be appointed, meetings will be scheduled as necessary.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Hoffman