

BOROUGH OF WEST READING
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
June 3, 2019

The Shade Tree Commission met on Monday, June 3, 2019 at Borough Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. with Chair Ron Schweitzer, Council Member Patrick Kaag, Commission Members Cody Rhoads and Chad Moyer, Public Works Director Dean Murray, and Borough Manager Cathy Hoffman in attendance. Lynne Burns was unable to attend.

Visitors

None

Public Comment

None

Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Cody Rhoads and seconded by Patrick Kaag to approve the minutes of May 6, 2019. **Motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Trees to Be Planted

Mr. Murray reported that 41 trees have been ordered from Eaton Farms at a cost of under \$3000. Varieties include serviceberry, pin oak, crab apple, crimson king and dogwood. Some are replacing trees that have died, and others are replacing trees that had to be removed because they have overgrown their space.

Tree Trimming

South 7th Avenue, from Penn to Spruce is scheduled for trimming, as well as the dead ends on sycamore trees.

Tree Inventory

The Environmental Advisory Council has been the recipient of a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to conduct an inventory of street trees in the Borough. Mr. Kaag, who sits on the Environmental Advisory Council as well, explained that volunteers will be in the Borough during the week of July 8th to complete this inventory. The problem that has arisen is being able to locate 5 iPads or iPhones that can be borrowed to enter the data which is necessary in order to complete the project.

Spotted Lanternfly

Mr. Murray stated that the crew has wrapped vulnerable trees with fresh tape to catch the nymphs that are attempting to climb certain trees. He noted that the sweeter varieties such as maple, apple and cherry trees are most susceptible.

Tree Removal

Mr. Murray indicated that there are several trees that were planted last year that are not growing well primarily because of the severe wind storms that have been experienced recently. These trees will have

to be removed and new trees planted. The trees in question are a honey locust, an oak and an autumn blaze.

2019 Budget

The Commission was provided with a copy of the budget for 2019 and Mr. Murray explained the following:

Account No.	Account Description	Amount Budgeted	Description
01-455-374	Repairs & Maint. Equipment	\$1000	Chipper repairs; chain saw parts etc.
01-455-376	Tree Trimming	\$25,000	Paid to contractors for large tree removal/trimming
01-455-377	Tree Spraying	\$500	Pesticides and Lanternfly control
01-455-378	Planting/Replacements	\$3,500	Replacing trees that have been removed

It was noted that larger trees like the sycamores are extremely costly to remove (\$3000 - \$3500 per tree) therefore they will have to be budgeted as part of the five-year plan. For future consideration, medium size trees will be planted which will not only be less costly to trim and remove, but also will not have such large root systems that sidewalks will be lifted.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to discuss.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hoffman
Borough Manager