

BOROUGH OF WEST READING
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
July 1, 2019

The Shade Tree Commission met on Monday, July 1, 2019 at Borough Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Chair Ron Schweitzer, Council Member Patrick Kaag, Commission Members Lynne Burns, Cody Rhoads and 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 Chad Moyer and seconded by Cody Rhoads to approve the minutes of June 3, 2019. **Motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Trees to Be Planted

Mr. Murray reported that the trees have been received however due to extenuating circumstances they have not yet been planted. He noted that they intend to plant them during the week of July 8th. Gator bags will be utilized for all new trees.

Tree Removal

Several tree removal companies have been asked for quotes to remove certain trees throughout the Borough. Once the quotes are received, a decision will be made as to which trees will be removed.

Spotted Lanternfly

Mr. Murray noted that the nymphs are changing over to the red stage and noted that the tape on the trees will continue to work as long as it has its tackiness. Once the tape is no longer sticky, it will be replaced.

Tree Inventory

It was reported that Shea Zwerver, Community Engagement Coordinator for DCNR, met with Phil Wert, Cathy Hoffman and Dean Murray this morning to discuss the upcoming tree inventory project which will be held between July 15th and 26th throughout the Borough. The issue of finding iPads to use for the inventory has been resolved, therefore teams of students will be working with volunteers to identify and document all Borough owned trees. Ms. Zwerver also provided copies of the materials that will be used by the students/volunteers to help identify the trees.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sidewalk Complaint

The Code Enforcement Department received a complaint concerning the sidewalk on Wayne Avenue between Kent Way and the alley (127 Kent Way). Mrs. Hoffman brought the subject to Shade Tree because it was her understanding that the tree causing the problem was still there however Mr. Murray confirmed that the tree was removed. The issue is that the owner has not attempted to correct the

sidewalk. This led to a discussion concerning the issues with sidewalks that have been lifted by overgrown trees. Mr. Moyer noted a joint meeting between the Commission and the Infrastructure Committee in 2017 where a protocol was established for the assessment of trees. In accordance with this protocol, the remaining trees at 127 Kent Way should be assessed and the owner given options to correct the situation.

The Commission also discussed the damage done by the flooding in the early hours of June 20th.

The Commission discussed the meeting schedule and felt that it was unnecessary to meet every month, therefore the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4th (due to the Labor Day holiday).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hoffman
Borough Manager