

BOROUGH OF WEST READING
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
March 1, 2021

The Shade Tree Commission met on Monday, March 1, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm with Chairperson Patrick Kaag, Borough Manager Nicholas Imbesi, Commission Members Lynne Burns and Chad Moyer, and Public Works Director Dean Murray in attendance. Commission Member Yahaira Castillo was unable to attend.

Visitors: Larry Weidner, Resident

Public Comment:

Mr. Weidner questioned the distance required by ordinance of tree planting on a residential property to the alley that runs behind property. The tree in question was planted approximately five years ago. The concern was with sewer lines running on property that connect in the alley. Issues had arisen in the past with the old terra-cotta sewer lines breaking and sewage sitting on the property for days before being reported. Mr. Murray stated that he would look at ordinance of this planting.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes of meeting from December 7, 2020 was made by Mr. Moyer and seconded by Ms. Burns. Motion carried 5-0.

New Business

Trimming schedule: Mr. Murray listed the priorities of South Fifth Avenue/Museum Road as well as Parkside Drive North. Trees are dying out and many have sustained winter weather damage. Spruce Street, Pine Street, all of Fifth and Third Avenues are on the list as well.

Planting schedule: Many empty areas along South Fourth Avenue where trees were removed are slated to be filled this spring. A higher caliper tree size (2-2.5 rather than 1.5) will be selected to maintain tree health.

Tree removal: The last large tree located in Delaney Circle is dying out, Mr. Murray would like to remove this tree before it becomes an issue similar to the last large tree that was taken out by a storm in 2020. A type of cultivar to plant in this area was discussed such as cherry blossom trees, Mr. Kaag and Mr. Imbesi would research this. Other older Oak Trees in this area need trimming as well. Oak Terrace has a few trees in need of having dead wood removed and may need to be removed. The new trees that were planted are establishing well.

Lantern Fly preparation: Mr. Murray has been researching a new pesticide that is delivered at the root level that seems to be helpful in killing the nymph stage. Will be targeting areas of infestation such as plantings of Maple Trees on the 300 block of Chestnut Street, Wayne Avenue, etc.

Mr. Kaag was interested in knowing what certifications the Borough Public Works crew members hold after being questioned by residents. Mr. Murray stated that we hold the needed pesticide certifications and have as a Commission taken online street tree classes through different arborist sites. The Public Works Department works closely with the Penn State Extension service representatives as needed.

Old Business

The new Pine Tree that was planted in 2020 at Delaney Circle is doing well. It has survived the winter weather and Mr. Murray is hopeful that good root growth will take place during the

upcoming growing season.

Creek erosion has been brought under control by the Borough trimming and planting Sycamore Trees to mitigate the loss of soil.

Mr. Imbesi will advertise the current vacancy on the board for a new member to take the seat of Mr. Schweitzer.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m. by Mr. Moyer and seconded by Ms. Burns. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Burns
Commission Member