

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING**  
**SHADE TREE COMMISSION**  
**August 2, 2021**

The Shade Tree Commission met on Monday, August 2, 2021 at Borough Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Chairperson Patrick Kaag, Interim Borough Manager and Public Works Director Dean Murray, and Commission Member Zachary Shaver in attendance. Due to the lack of a quorum, the meeting was held as a workshop.

**Visitor:** Denise Drobnick, Resident

**Public Comment:** Denise Drobnick expressed concern with a Kwanzan tree in front of her home on N. Third Avenue near Penn Avenue. She requested trimming of the tree as she feels it has become overgrown for the spot that it occupies. Mr. Murray explained that those specific trees are difficult to maintain as it is crucial to prune those trees properly early in their life. He explained that there is potential for fall or winter removal of some of these trees if it is determined by the Commission that they are no longer viable. It was recommended to begin removing every other tree in order to maintain a canopy.

**Approval of Minutes:** Approval of the June 7, 2021 minutes was delayed until a quorum would be present.

**Bare Root Tree Program:** Mr. Kaag introduced the Bare Root Tree Program through the PA Urban & Community Forestry Council, and the potential for the Borough to qualify for up to twenty (20) Large Caliper Bare Root Trees upon approval of a completed "preliminary application". Mr. Kaag wanted to discuss with Commission Members prior to applying to determine if this would be a worthwhile pursuit. Based on the discussion, it was agreed upon that Mr. Kaag will complete the "preliminary application" in order to at least begin the process of seeing if our Borough would qualify for this program.

**Tree Removals:** Mr. Murray discussed some of the trees that are slated for removal on Oak Terrace, and Seventh & Wayne Avenues. One of the Oak Trees in Delaney Circle was removed due to half of it not being viable anymore. Seventh & Wayne Avenues had an Oak tree that was also only half alive, as well as one of the trees on Oak Terrace.

**Tree Trimming:** Mr. Murray discussed some of the trees slated for trimming on Delaney Circle, Oak Terrace & Museum Road (from old emergency room entrance down to the traffic light at Sycamore Road). Also, there was a resident complaint received from Sycamore Road where some limbs needed to be trimmed.

**Lantern Fly Treatment:** Mr. Murray provided an update for the Lanternfly Treatment by stating that the contractor started to apply the treatments but needs to return to finish the treatments.

**DCNR Tree Inventory:** Mr. Kaag provided an update concerning the Tree Inventory App & Presentation that was provided by the DCNR back in 2019. He stated that he will provide everyone on the Commission with the login information and any other information pertaining to what the DCNR provided to the Borough, so that the other Commission Members could have access.

**Adjournment**

The workshop meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Kaag  
Commission Member