

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING  
SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
December 6, 2021**

The Shade Tree Commission met on Monday, December 6, 2021 at Borough Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm with Chair Patrick Kaag, Borough Manager Dean Murray, Chad Moyer Public Works, Commission Members Lynne Burns and Zachary Shaver and Public Works Acting Foreman Kerry Grassley in attendance. Commission Member Yahaira Castillo in absence.

**Public comment:** None

Motion to approve the minutes of meeting from October 4, 2021 meeting was made by Chad M and seconded by Zachary. 5-0

**New Business**

**Trimming schedule:** Trimming on Parkside Drive east and west side was completed in November. Scheduled for the next couple weeks are Sycamore Road in the 300 block. This will complete the non-emergency schedule for the year.

**Tree removal:** Large Zelkova trees located on Ann Street are beginning to decline. They are located in front of properties 400, 402 and 422 respectively. They are demonstrating die back in the center of tree. Normally the recommendation would be to remove them to cut the risk of falling on property owners homes. However, these trees have been identified as perhaps being the largest and oldest in the state of Pennsylvania. Ryan Webber has notified us that they may be placed on a registry with the state. He will be contacted by Patrick K. to give a presentation about how to move forward with them at a future meeting. The trees do not need immediate attention, they are in a healthy state. If trees need removal, quotes have been received of approximately 12-15k per located at 410 and 414. The smaller of the three at 402 could be removed by the Public Works Department.

A motion to remove the trees if needed was made by Chad M and seconded by Lynne B. Motion carried.

A Crab Apple tree at 137 Olive Street on the south side of the street has been identified as needing removal due to damage. The Public Works Department can handle this removal.

A motion to remove this tree was made by Zach S and seconded by Chad M. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

Patrick K. will be looking into the issue of tree inspections and sidewalk damages within the Borough and the liability that may rest with the Borough. He will speak with Dan Becker at upcoming Borough Council meeting to see if changes need to be made to what the ordinance now states.

Patrick K will also be looking into the possibility of creating a Facebook page to allow for more public interaction and comment on the health of the Borough trees.

### **Adjournment**

The motion to adjourn was made by Chad M. seconded by Zachary S. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynne Burns  
Commission member