



## West Reading Shade Tree Commission

### Draft Meeting Minutes

October 7th, 2024

#### 1. Call to Order (5:59pm)

- Members present: L. Burns, P. Kaag, K. Grassley (Public Works Director), Z. Shaver

#### 2. Public Comment

- Barbara Moyer (402 Oak Terrace): Lived at address for approx. 52 years. Concerns about Oak Tree in front of house, dropping lots of acorns and some branches. Worries about tripping hazard to pedestrians and damage to vehicles & home. Would like tree to be evaluated for removal based on observations of suspected health issues. Public Works director informed that tree was assessed about a year ago and was deemed healthy, but will have it assessed again.
- Nathalie Kulesa (331 Sunset Rd): Inquired about an update on proposed “pocket park” at the traffic triangle between Sunset-Pine-Third, no update was provided but encouraged discussion via Borough correspondence to evaluate Pros/Cons. Would also like the tree on the northeast corner of Pine-Third intersection, as it appears to have overgrown area and not allowing for repairs to curbing/street/sidewalk while still in place.
- Other visitors: Melissa Heiser (329 Sunset Rd)

#### 3. Approval of Minutes (July 1st, 2024)

- Motion made by K. Grassley & Z. Shaver. Approved

#### 4. Old Business

- (Tree Planting) - K. Grassley: Will begin purchasing new trees for planting in the coming week.
- (Tree Trimming) – K. Grassley: Some trees will be trimmed on Pine St, 300 Block of Sunset Rd, Playground Dr, Linden Ln.
- (Tree Removals) – K. Grassley: Slated for removal are one tree near intersection of Sycamore Rd & Museum Rd, near 201 South 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- (Tree Watchlist) – K. Grassley: Lightning damaged tree near 412 Oak Terrace, two trees near intersection of Spruce St & 2nd Ave. L. Burns: some Cherry Trees on Walnut St appear unhealthy.

#### 5. New Business

- (Park Mulching) - P. Kaag: will provide updates from local Boy Scouts of America troop about volunteer opportunity for mulching, will also contact other organizations for potential interest.
- (Shade Tree Budget) – P.Kaag: requested consideration from Commission to make a recommendation to Borough Council to increase the budget for Shade Tree work by \$10k. Budget was only recently increased from \$16k to \$30k in the past couple of years. In order to continue providing proper care of the trees, maintaining a proactive approach to planning and assessment is key. Motion made by Z. Shaver & L. Burns.
- Adjournment (6:22pm) motion by K. Grassley & Z. Shaver.