



## West Reading Shade Tree Commission

### Draft Meeting Minutes

February 3rd, 2025

1. Call to Order (6:03pm)

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

2. Presentation – Kevin Weber (Bartlett Tree Experts): spoke on the benefits of having a Formal Management Plan with the Borough’s approx. 1300 trees, by a credentialed arborist. Described phased implementation that would address the many trees estimated to be past maturity, also to plan for pruning and removal of larger species under that same designation. Kevin explained that a consultation investment of approx. \$15k for a full write up of the inventory, to assess points such as age-condition-recommendations-etc of each individual tree and have it gps tagged. The idea would be to have every tree assessed and provided maintenance at least every 5 years, the assessment itself is good for 3-5 years. Public Works Director expressed the idea that the budget could be split over 2 years to cover cost. There is also a GIS software 3 year license fee of approx. \$2400, in order to layout locations in relation to utilities and other recorded site information. This would aid greatly in planning for street projects, where sidewalks-curbs-roads-ADA accessibility- etc are all being factored for rehabilitation. Many of these streets have trees that are negatively impacting utilities and infrastructure to a critical level, as the trees are a similar age to the homes on that block at +/- 100 years. Commission will provide thoughts during next Shade Tree Commission meeting and consider making a recommendation to Borough Council for approval.

3. Public Comment: none

4. Approval of Minutes (December 2nd, 2024)

- Motion made by J.Witmer & Z. Shaver. (Approved)

5. Old Business

- (Tree Watchlist) – K. Grassley: obtaining (4) quotes for removal of trees near 5<sup>th</sup>Ave/Sycamore/Sunset, 7<sup>th</sup> & Wayne, 4<sup>th</sup> & Oak (x2).

5. New Business

- (Tree Planting) - K. Grassley: ½ dozen to be planted on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave in April [Garage side]. J.Witmer asked about bringing back the Arbor Day tree planting giveaway. Will gather more information.
- (Tree Trimming) – K. Grassley: Redbuds on South 6<sup>th</sup> 000-100 block, Lakeview & Wayne.
- (Tree Removals) – Approx \$9k for removals mentioned above under “Watchlist”

6. Adjournment (6:48pm) motion by Z. Shaver & K. Grassley. (Approved)