

West Reading Shade Tree Commission

Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 2, 2026, 6pm

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Old Business
  - a. Tree Watchlist
  - b. Tree Inventory
    - i. Does this include the spots in the planting strips where trees have been removed and need to be replaced?
  - c. Tree Planting
  - d. Tree Trimming
  - e. Tree Removals
5. New Business
  - a. Shade Tree Letter to Oak Terrace Residents

From Committee Member Jean Witmer:

*Months ago, the Committee discussed removing trees on Oak Terrace, where there is no planting strip, and the original oaks were planted on residential properties. Several trees have had to be removed, and some replaced. As trees on this block grow on private property, we can't force replacement. I had asked at that time if we might send a letter to the homeowners where trees have not been replaced, and encourage their participation. Patrick thought that would be fine; I am finally getting to the first draft of that letter.*

*I'd like to have this on the agenda for our next meeting. Please consider doing the letter at all, if the letter should include a box for no tree replacement wanted, and the wording.*

**To our neighbor at \_\_\_\_\_:**

**When many of our West Reading homes were built in the 1920's, the community plans didn't stop with the homes. The founders created a legacy of communal beauty when they planted the trees that have graced our streets for generations to come.**

**Those trees lend their beauty throughout the seasons, as they provide the comfort of shade during the summer, homes for wildlife, and significant monetary value when selling our homes.**

**The Shade Tree Commission of West Reading is entrusted with maintaining our tree inventory. We partner with Arborists from Bartlett Tree Experts, who among other things, advise us on the type of trees suitable to replace those we have lost to age or disease.**

**It's always sad to lose one of our 100+ year old trees, but that did occur at your property within the past year. The Arborist has recommended the following options as a replacement:**

- 1. (Common name and basic description: height, canopy, fall leaf color, what it drops)**
- 2.**
- 3.**

**If you would like to choose, please mark your selection above, and return this letter to the Shade Tree Commission in the enclosed self addressed, stamped envelope before \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Thank you for taking part in keeping West Reading green and healthy for future generations!**