

RSTC Minutes for August 17th, 2020

Meeting called to order at 1805 hours by Mr. Kissinger, Jr.

Special Notes:

- Meeting was held at Public Works outside with social distancing measure in place. All the necessary safety precautions were in place and all participants wore Mask.

1. Attendance:

- a. Lester Kissinger, Jr. – City Arborist, Shade Tree Administrator / Chair
- b. Robert Reimer – Member
- c. David Moodhart – Member
- d. Margaret Yevics – Member
- e. Thomas Ryan – Member
- f. Donna Reed – City Council, **ABSENT**
- g. Jeff Thompson – Support
- h. John Denick – Support, **ABSENT**
- i. Kyle Zeiber – Public Works Operations Manager

2. Presenters / Guests:

- a. None

3. Review of the minutes from July, 2020

- a. Motion to approve the July minutes made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Reimer
 - i. All in favor. 4 Y, 0 N

4. Report of permits

- a. For July, 2020
 - i. Removals – 10
 - ii. Pruning – 3
 - iii. Planting – 0

5. Arborist Report

- a. Classes Attended
 - i. None
- b. 0 – Letters sent out to property owner during the month June.
- c. 9 – Notification of Violations for hazards, pruning, or violations sent out to the property owners for the month of July
 - i. 0 – have be moved to citation
- d. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree agreements for Fall of 2020
- e. 0 – Invoices to property owners
- f. 3 – Invoices for In House work during July totaling \$2,262.50
 - i. This work consisted of tree removals, utility clearing, and land clearing for Kayak area

- g. 5 – Contractor Invoices for June totaling \$26,350.00
 - i. Baer Park, Penn St. Lot (1000 Blk.), and Lot 458 Schuylkill
 - h. 1 – Letters of interest received for the Fall 2020 Adopt-a-Tree
- 6. Request for Variance in having to replant
 - a. None
- 7. Review of Zoning Plans
 - a. 445 Oley St. – Concerns and review of tree placement
 - b. Reading Skate Park – 6th and Canal Street
 - i. No new street trees called for per the plan. Plan states they will use all existing landscape. One concern was noted with the tree in the area of the parking lot install. Questions were raised with respects to tree protection zones to prevent damage from construction.
 - 1. No response yet from the developer
- 8. Old Business
 - a. Ordinance:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reports the ordinance amendment went in front of City Council on Monday, June 13th, 2020. Mr. Kissinger states after review of Council minutes the amendment was voted on and approved. The ordinance will take effect shortly.
 - b. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the assessments continue to go well. He notes Nolde Pines has recently finished Baer Park and Centre Park. He states the contractor is currently working at Pendora Park.
 - c. Fall Adopt-a-Tree
 - i. The commission has decided on folding off on doing an Adopt-a-Tree this fall. The commission hope to continue the program in spring of 2021 as long as the CoVid-19 restrictions lighten up.
- 9. New Business
 - a. Budget:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger note no significant changes to the budget. He provides an update to where things stand up to the end of July.
 - b. Spotted Lantern Fly
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states SLF is active but not as bad as in the years past. He states he has received some calls questioning there life cycle.
 - c. Downtown Tree Work
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states nothing new since last month meeting. He notes he did speak with the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce and that Aaron Gantz is now leaning more towards a fall / winter project.
 - a. Updates to follow.

- d. Capital Budget 2020
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reminds the commission there is \$100,000 to work with this year.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states he has performed an assessment of the trees along S. 5th and N. 5th. He states he is working to finalize to the specs and get them out to bid.
 - 1. Kyle recommends soliciting 3 contractors first to see what the prices come in at.
 - 2. Update will be provided at next month meeting
 - iii. Mr. Kissinger states he already has a list of Ash Trees for removals and will be giving them to the contractor to do.

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Kissinger states he continuously works to address the commission concerns. He asked if anyone had anything new to present.
 - i. No one had any comments at this time.
- b. Mr. Kissinger states the next meeting is scheduled for September 21st, 2020 at 1800 hours.
- c. Mr. Kissinger states the MDJ in East Reading has dismissed the case for replant per our discussion last month. He states that the MDJ states moving forward it will be handle on a case by case situation in her court room. She notes this property owner presented a valid point about not replanting another tree and by restoring the pit with flowers instead. She notes he meet the requirement on her end.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. Mr. Moodhart provides the following list.
 - i. 11th and Spring: Dead Tree
 - ii. 348 N. 4th Dead Tree
 - iii. 8th and Washington at YWCA: Dead Tree
 - iv. 000 Block S. 9th – Hazardous Maple Trees
 - v. 916 Washington St. – Hazardous Tree
 - vi. Red Cross Building – Multiple Concerns
 - vii. Alvernia Building on N. 4th Street Side
 - viii. 538 Walnut St. – Hazardous Tree
 - ix. 3rd and Penn @ Firestone – Hazardous Tree
 - x. 138 N. 8th St. – Hazardous Tree
 - xi. Spring St. @ Gas Station – Hazardous Trees
 - xii. 1800 Kutztown Road – Wrong Species Planted
 - xiii. 7th & Washington Parking Lot – Hazardous Trees
 - xiv. Yellow wood at the canon could use some cleaning up

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Yevics, seconded by Mr. Reimer at 1900 hours