

RSTC Minutes for January 19th, 2021

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

Special Notes:

- Meeting was held at Public Works in the lunch room 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 - **ABSENT**
 - c. David Moodhart – Member
 - d. Margaret Yevics – Member
 - e. Thomas Ryan – Member
 - f. Donna Reed – City Council - **ABSENT**
 - g. Jeff Thompson – Support - **ABSENT**
 - h. John Denick – Support, **ABSENT**
 - i. Kyle Zeiber – Public Works Operations Manager
2. Presenters / Guests:
 - a. None
3. Review of the minutes from December, 2020
 - a. Motion to approve the December minutes made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Yevics
 - i. All in favor. 3 Y, 0 N
4. Report of permits
 - a. For December, 2020
 - i. Removals – 3
 - ii. Pruning – 1
 - iii. Planting – 0
 - b. For Calendar Year 2020
 - i. Removals – 82
 - ii. Pruning – 41
 - iii. Planting – 60(+)
5. Arborist Report
 - a. Classes Attended
 - i. Updates on Control Strategies for SLF
 - ii. Formulations
 - iii. One Mix, Mix Rule
 - iv. Insects that damage Conifers
 - v. Managing Spill and Waste

- b. Letters sent to Property owners
 - i. None for the month December
 - c. Notice of Violations Issued
 - i. 0 for either hazards, pruning, removals or other violations for the month of December
 - 1. 0 – have be moved to citation
 - 2. 22 – still pending court or listed as open since the start of 2020
 - 3. 91 – cases have been closed or settled through Court since the start of 2020
 - d. Adopt-a-Tree
 - i. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree agreements for Spring of 2021
 - ii. 1 – Letter of interest for Spring 2021
 - e. Invoices for December 2020
 - i. 1 – to property owner of 139 S. 5th Street
 - 1. Failure to comply, seeking restitution
 - ii. 1 – for In House work during December totaling \$600.00
 - 1. Brush clearing for WWTP
 - iii. 7 – Contractor Invoices for December totaling \$46,812.00
 - 1. These work orders consisted of work performed at Eglemans, Oak Lane, and 139 S. 5th St.
6. Request for Variance in having to replant
- a. 1102 Perkiomen Av., request not to replant, granted, utility conflict
7. Review of Zoning Plans
- a. SALDO amendments
8. Old Business
- a. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states all the major parks have been finished.
 - b. Mr. Slifko – Memorial Stone
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the Centre Park Committee reached out about moving this forward.
 - 1. Updates to be provided at a later time. Awaiting a meeting date.
9. New Business
- a. Budget:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reviewed the final expenditures / closing of the budget for 2020
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger reviewed the budget for 2021
 - b. Spotted Lantern Fly
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states nothing new to report

- c. Capital Budget 2020
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the plan is to use the \$100,000 allocated in the Capital Budget for this year's work. He notes currently it looks like this amount will need to be rolled into next year as it will need City Councils approval once awarded.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states the assessment of the trees along 5th Street from Canal north to the City Line have been completed. He states the project went out to bid and was advertised on the City's Website. He states the bid opening was scheduled for today, November 16th at 3pm.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger states only one bid was received in the amount of \$95,000 submitted by Nolde Pines.
 - 2. The commission agrees to move forward with the sole bid and looks forward to the work being completed early next year.
 - iii. Mr. Kissinger states paperwork is being finalized with legal and should be going out for signatures soon.
- d. Tree Care Contract 2021
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states contract extension / renewal for the next two years has been signed off on
- e. Pesticide Contract 2021
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states contract extension / renewal for the next two years has been signed off on
- f. Planting Projects
 - i. Mr. Kissinger notes the need to plan for this year's tree plantings. He states he would like to perform large planting projects in City Park, Centre Park, and Eglemans.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger explains he has chosen these parks due to the amount of trees either lost or removed over the last couple of years. He states he believes two dozen or more trees can be planted at each location.
 - iii. The commission agrees a planting project should be done of large scale this year.
 - 1. Pending CoVid-19 this will be considered for Fall 2021
- g. EAB reimbursement
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he has submitted reimbursement for the 2020 treatment Ash Tree Treatment cycle to the state. He reminds everyone this is a 50:50 match. He states we should receive \$ 4,600.00 in reimbursement.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states the state accepted the request and will move it forward on their end for signatures.
 - 1. No new updates

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Kissinger states he continues working 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 January 19th, 2021 at 1800 hours.
- c. Mr. Kissinger states paperwork has been submitted for Arbor Day 2020 recognition
- d. Mr. Kissinger read an email from the Arbor Day foundation regarding requirements for 2021
 - i. He notes the standard of having to plant a tree will be waived as long as the municipality has a Proclamation
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger asked for ideas for this year's Arbor Day.
 - 1. Mr. Zeiber states a memorial for all the lives lost during CoVid-19. He notes the need for this event to be open to City Admin, Healthcare representatives, and First Responders.
 - a. More details to come in the next month or two
- e. Mr. Kissinger reads an email about Earth Day 2021 and the events planned.
 - i. Ms. Yevics agrees we should participate in the event scheduled for June 13th.
 - 1. More information to follow when it becomes available
 - ii. Mr. Zeiber expresses the tree planting should occur on Arbor Day. He notes that during the week of virtual events for Earth Day to do a lesson of the week regarding tree selection and care
 - 1. The Commission agrees.
 - iii. Mr. Kissinger states he will respond accordingly
- f. Mr. Kissinger states the focus of this years contracted work will be along the City Right of Ways. He expressed there are many trees requiring work along the sweeper routes and upon approaching intersections with line of site issues. He states this work would be done at random based off complaints and visual observations made while out inspecting.
 - i. The Commission has no objections.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. Schuylkill Ave Bridge check for branches hanging out over the sidewalk / railing on the west end south side.

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