

RSTC Minutes for July 19th, 2021

Meeting called to order at 1813 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
- 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 June, 2021

- a. Motion was made by Mr. Ryan to approve the June minutes, seconded by Mr. Reimer
 - i. All in favor
 1. 4Ya's, 0 Na's

4. Report of permits for the month of June

- a. Removals: 9
- b. Pruning: 3
- c. Plantings: 1

5. Arborist Report

- a. Classes Attended
 - i. Urban Tree Pest Update
- b. Letters sent to Property owners
 - i. None for the month of June
- c. Notice of Violations Issued
 - i. 21 for either hazards, pruning, removals or other violations for the month of June
 1. 10 – have be moved to citation
 2. 7 – cases still pending Court for the year of 2020 or listed as open out of 111

3. 16 – cases open pending inspection or court for of 2021
 4. 25 – cases have been closed for the year of 2021
 - d. Adopt-a-Tree
 - i. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree agreements for Fall of 2021
 - ii. 0 – Letter of interest for Fall 2021
 - e. Invoices for June 2021
 - i. 0 – to property owners
 - ii. 29 – for In House work totaling \$63,592.00 since the start of the year
 1. Most recent jobs:
 - a. Glenn Road – Tree Removal
 - b. Mineral Spring Park, Tree Removal
 - c. Duryea Drive, Turn 1 – Tree Removal
 - d. Schlegel Pool – Partial Tree Removal
 - iii. 17 – Contractor Invoices totaling \$73,870.00 since the start of the year
 1. Most recent jobs:
 - a. City Park
 - b. Northmont Playground
 - c. Essig Park
6. Request for Variance in having to replant
 - a. Sotto Properties – 1800 Centre Av signed an agreement that moving forward they agree to follow the Shade Tree Ordinance when performing tree work. They also agree to secure a Shade Tree Work permit prior to work commencing and have acknowledge that a re-inspection will occur next spring to determine if proper growth has been re-established.
 - i. This agreement is on file with the City Arborist
 7. Review of Zoning Plans
 - a. Preliminary Land Development Plan for 226 & 230 N. 5th Street, City of Reading – Berks Co. Pennsylvania. Tentatively approved the plans presented on SHT 2, Drawing # D-4900320, dated 5/27/20. Changes made from the previous review.
 8. Old Business
 - a. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states work will continue on an as needed basis. He states all the major parks have been completed.
 - 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.
 2. Nothing new to report
 - c. Spotted Lantern Fly
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states there is some activity but nothing to the extent in the past few years.

- d. Capital Budget 2022
 - i. Mr. Kissinger asked for ideas for 2022
 - 1. The commission would like to continue with large pruning projects such as the one that just occurred on N. 5th

9. New Business

- a. Budget:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reviewed the budget for 2021 up to the end of June. No majors changes or expenditures
- b. Planting Projects
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the Reading Parking Authority is looking to do a large planting to replenish what was recently removed during the sidewalk project.
 - 1. He notes he is currently working with them to select species and placement
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states Larry Lloyd from Berks Nature has also voiced interest in doing some plantings around the City.
 - 1. More details to follow.

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Kissinger states he continues to address the commission concerns. He asked if anyone had anything new to present.
 - i. No one has nothing new to report.
- b. Mr. Kissinger states the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 16th, 2021 at 1800 hours.
 - i. He notes he has a scheduling conflict and will not be available for this meeting. He asked that the meeting be canceled and resume in September
 - 1. No objections were received
 - ii. Next meeting scheduled for Monday, September 20th, 2021

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. 331 W. Douglass Street – Dead Dogwood
- b. Windsor and Madison, on Madison two dead trees
- c. Windsor & Thorn – Crabapples need some work
- d. 409 N. 5th – Dead Tree
- e. 402 Douglass St. – Stump, already cited x2
- f. 730 N. 3rd, Large Oak requiring pruning
- g. 3rd & Douglass – multiple trees requiring pruning. Already working with this property owner
- h. 420 Franklin St – Pruning, already in Citation
- i. 1057 N. 11th – Dead Tree
- j. 4th & Spruce – Dead Tree

12. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Yevics, seconded by Mr. Ryan at 1915 hours