

RSTC Minutes for June 15th, 2020

Meeting called to order at 1810 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.
- No official business conducted. No quorum met during the meeting.

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, **ABSENT**
- 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 May, 2020

- a. No Motion to approve due to lack of quorum

4. Report of permits

- a. For May, 2020
 - i. Removals – 5
 - ii. Pruning – 1
 - iii. Planting – 0

5. Arborist Report

- a. Classes Attended
 - i. Detection of Internal Decay - Webinar
 - ii. Forest Health, Insect, and Disease Briefing – Webinar
- b. 0 – Letters sent out to property owner during the month of February and March.
- c. 11 – Notification of Violations for hazards, pruning, or violations sent out to the property owners for the month of April
 - i. 6 – have be moved to citation
- d. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree agreements for Fall of 2020
- e. 0 – Invoices to property owners
- f. 13 – Invoices for In House work during April totaling \$13,551.10

- i. This work consisted of Varies storms, Sinkhole repair, tree removals, and spreading of topsoil 400 block of Penn Street
 - g. 4 – Contractor Invoices for April totaling \$11,126.34
 - i. Baer Park, and Street light clearing / pruning for obstruction and install.
 - 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. None
- 8. Old Business
 - a. Ordinance:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reports there has been some movement with this since the last meeting. He notes the Clerk's office took up interest. He states there were some additional changes suggested by the City Clerk which were made. He states it has since been sent back for their review and to be forwarded to legal.
 - 1. Remains Tabled awaiting a response
 - a. As of 2/18/2020 the City Clerk's office states it's still under review and will follow up.
 - ii. Draft Ordinance review by the Commission handout in May, 2019
 - 1. Commission has asked for more time to review.
 - a. Tabled
 - iii. Mr. Kissinger reports the final minor changes were resubmitted to legal for final review. He notes due to CoVid-19 things are a little behind and expects that once reviewed it will be ready to move to City Council. Mr. Kissinger states he will update the commission once he knows more.
 - b. 908 Rose St.
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states no new updates. He notes that all court cases have been postponed due to CoVid-19.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger reminds everyone that he and Fred Lachat (City Attorney) where schedule for an Appeal Hearing in the Court of Common Pleas on March 23rd, 2020.
 - 1. He will provide updates at a later time once the courts re-open.
 - c. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the assessments continue to go well. He notes Nolde Pines is currently working at Baer Park.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states he is still evaluating where the contractor will go next.
 - 1. Updates will be provided at next month's meeting.

- d. State EAB Treatment Reimbursement
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he requested reimbursement for the amount of \$4,324.69 for the EAB treatment program in 2019. He notes that the inter-governmental agreement has been renewed for the years 2019 thru 2021 and reminds everyone that this is a 50:50 match.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger states the reimbursement has been received and credited to the Shade Tree Account.
- e. Ash Tree Treatment update
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states 76 sites are scheduled to be treated. He notes leaf out has occurred late this year pushing back the anticipated treatment dates.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states treatments are currently underway. He notes only one tree so far was questioned due to health and upon re-evaluation a decision was made to move forward with treating.
 - 1. Further updates at next month meeting.

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 May.
- b. Spotted Lantern Fly
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states egg masses hatched. He states he has received some calls questioning little black bugs. Upon further evaluation he determine the concern to be the nymphs feeding on health plant material.
- 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. Earth Day
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the event was postponed to fall. He believes it currently scheduled for the last Sunday of September. He reminds everyone to keep their calendars free as there will be a table setup for the commission to hand out flyers and promote the importance of planting trees.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger states a tree planting will also occur to demonstrate proper planting to the public.
 - a. Additional information to come at a later meeting.
- e. Capital Budget 2020
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reminds the commission there is \$100,000 to work with this year.

- ii. Mr. Kissinger states he will begin evaluating North 5th Street shortly from S. 5th and Canal Street to the 1500 block of N. 5th. He states once the evaluation is complete he will put together specs and get them out for bid.
- iii. Mr. Kissinger states he already has a list of Ash Trees for removals and will get them out to bid shortly as well.

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 July 20th, 2020 at 1800 hours.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. Mr. Moodhart provides the following list.
 - i. Dead Branch: 420 Franklin St.
 - ii. Southeast corner S. 5th and Franklin: Dead Tree
 - iii. 700 Franklin @ railroad tracks: Two Dead Trees
 - iv. 29 S. 9th St: Tree is Poor Shape
 - v. 11th and Spring: Dead Tree
 - vi. 1000 Block Walnut Street: Dead Ginko
 - vii. 700 block N. 5th multiple tree concerns
- b. Mr. Thompson reports
 - i. Schuylkill Ave and Lackawanna Street: Dead Tree

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Yevics, seconded by Mr. Moodhart at 1845 hours