

RSTC Minutes for June 21st, 2021

Meeting called to order at 1810 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
- h. John Denick – Support, **ABSENT**
- i. Kyle Zeiber – Public Works Operations Manager

2. Presenters / Guests:

- a. Mike Lauter – Centre Park
 - i. Provided an updated regarding John Slifko Tree Fund
 1. Guidelines and Application was handed out for review, questions, and comments.
 - ii. Discussed tree plantings to occur in Centre Park around the circle
 1. 3 trees to be planted in the fall 2021 of different species.
 2. A replacement program moving forward to remove and replace the mature lindens and fill in some of the open space.
 - a. Would like to add color to the park year round
 3. Recommendations will be made to the Centre Park committee in the next few months for review
- b. Pam Gockley – Hampden Heights
 - i. Interested in becoming a member of the commission. Came to see what it's about and how she can get involved.
 1. States she is a resident of the City for 12 plus years and is concerned about the large trees in her neighborhood being removed.
 2. She wants to help educate the public of the importance of trees and the long term benefits they provide not only now but in the future.

3. Review of the minutes from May, 2021

- a. Motion was made by Mr. Ryan to approve the May minutes, seconded by Mr. Moodhart
 - i. All in favor

1. 3Ya's, 0 Na's
4. Report of permits for the month of May
 - a. Removals: 13
 - b. Pruning: 2
 - c. Plantings: 9
5. Arborist Report
 - a. Classes Attended
 - i. Disaster Recovery Preparedness: A Guide to Damage Prevention & Planning
 - ii. Presentation to Reading Muhlenberg CTC
 - b. Letters sent to Property owners
 - i. None for the month of May
 - c. Notice of Violations Issued
 - i. 10 for either hazards, pruning, removals or other violations for the month of May
 1. 2 – have be moved to citation
 2. 9 – cases still pending Court for the year of 2020 or listed as open out of 111
 3. 34 – cases open pending inspection or court for of 2021
 4. 17 – 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 May 2021
 - i. 0 – to property owners
 - ii. 24 – for In House work totaling \$59,620.40 since the start of the year
 1. Most recent jobs:
 - a. 1100 N. 9th – Branch Removal
 - b. City Park – 1200 Block Walnut St, Tree Removal
 - c. Duryea Drive, Turn 5 – Tree Removal
 - d. 700 block Walnut St – Branch Removal
 - e. 1157 Church St – Partial Tree Removal
 - f. 2400 High St – Tree Removal
 - iii. 13 – Contractor Invoices totaling \$50,367.05 since the start of the year
 1. Most recent jobs:
 - a. EJ Dives
 2. Capital Project completed:
 - a. N. 5th Street
6. Request for Variance in having to replant
 - a. None
7. Review of Zoning Plans

- a. Land Development Plan for Jan & Wil Properties LLC 800 Blk. Windsor St, City of Reading – Berks Co. Pennsylvania. Approved the Landscaping Plan presented on sheet 4 of 5, Plan Number T20-005-D, Revision dated 11-19-2020.
- b. Preliminary / Final Land Development Plan for the Marion Street Station, Reading Fire Department, 1201 N. 9th Street, City of Reading – Berks Co. Pennsylvania. Approved the Landscaping Plan presented on Sheet LD-4, and LD-9, Landscape Details and Notes revision dated May 10th, 2021 Job # 1476-1.
- c. 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.
- d. Preliminary / Final Plan for the Isla Property Management 1 LLC, 660 Schuylkill Ave, City of Reading – Berks Co. Pennsylvania. Denied the Landscaping Plan presented on Plan # T18 – 004 – D, revision dated May 4th, 2021 sheets 3 of 3. Reason for the denial is list below.
 - i. The plan will need to be revised with a more suitable tree species for planting. Revision should be resubmitted once corrected for approval.
 - ii. Reason for denial:
 1. Acer platanoides ‘Norway Maple’ is no longer an approved specie for planting. Norway maple is on the Invasive Species list and no longer acceptable. New species selection will need review and approval.
 2. Spirea sp is approved
- e. Preliminary / Final Land Development Plan for The Nature Place at Angelica Creek Park – Phase II, 575 Saint Bernardine Street, City of Reading – Berks Co. Pennsylvania. I approve the Landscaping Plan presented on LP-1, pages 7 of 15 dated April 6th, 2021 job # 1006508.020.
- f. Sketch Plan for Albright College Rockland Street Warehouse, 1015 Rockland Street, City of Reading – Berks Co. Pennsylvania. Approved the Sketch Plan presented on Plan # Sk-1, SHT 1 of 1 dated May 4th, 2021 project # 2021-028.
- g. Preliminary / Final Land Development Plan for the Super Natural Foods III 4th & Elm, City of Reading – Berks Co. Pennsylvania. Denied the Landscaping Plan presented on Plan # T18 – 011 – D, SHT 6 of 6 revision dated January 8th, 2019.
 - i. Reason for the denial is list below.
 1. The plan will need to be revised with a more suitable tree species for planting. Revision should be resubmitted once corrected for approval.
 2. Reason for denial:
 - a. (5) Acer platanoides ‘Norway Maple’ is no longer an approved specie for planting. Norway maple is on the Invasive Species list and no longer acceptable. An

approved Species shall be selected. The new selection will need review and approval.

3. The following noted on the plan was approved:

- a. (45) Spirea sp,
- b. (11) Coprocyparis Leyland ‘Leyland Cypress’.

4. Note: Notice of Violation to the property owner issued for failure to secure Shade Tree Work permit application prior to removing two Ash trees on the N. 4th Street side of the property. The stumps are still present and are of a concern presenting as a tripping hazard. This property was also in violation by closing a state road to perform these removals without first contacting PennDot and applying for the appropriate permits.

- h. Preliminary / Final Land Development Plan for Prince and Princess Daycare, 936-938 Penn Street, City of Reading – Berks Co. Pennsylvania. Approved the Landscaping Plan presented on Plan number T21-005, SHTs 2 of 3 and 3 of 3 dated April 6th, 2021.
- i. Final Land Development Plan for 1325 & 1341 Scott Street, City of Reading – Berks Co. Pennsylvania. Approved the Landscaping Plan presented on Plan number 200128-LS-SHT05, SHT 5 of 9 dated April 9th, 2021.
- j. Final Land Development Plan for Remcon Plastics, 208 Chestnut Street City of Reading – Berks Co. Pennsylvania. Approved the Landscaping Planting Schedule presented on Drawing number D-4900916, SHT 2 of 11 revision dated October 7th, 2019.
- k. Observation of 1138 Lancaster Ave. - Two trees required for this property and support the recommendations made by zoning. One tree shall be in the existing grass area (back side of the sidewalk) near the bus stop. The current planting strip along the curb line is not large enough to support plantings. There also appears to be a sewer line running directly under the pavement. The second trees placement should be considered along the McAdoo side of the property in the existing grass area. Any questions, please feel free to contact me.

8. Old Business

a. Park Assessments

- i. Mr. Kissinger states the following parks have been schedule for maintenance.
 - 1. Oley & Church St
 - 2. Northmont Playground
- ii. Mr. Kissinger states he has been reviewing complaints as received

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 2021

- i. Mr. Kissinger states the 5th Street Pruning work is finished.

9. New Business

a. Budget:

- i. Mr. Kissinger reviewed the budget for 2021 up to the end of May. No majors changes or expenditures

b. Planting Projects

- i. Mr. Kissinger states nothing currently scheduled.
 1. He hopes to have a larger project scheduled for the fall pending the availability of volunteers

c. EAB treatments 2021

- i. Mr. Kissinger states treatments have been completed

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Kissinger states he continues to address the commission concerns. He asked if anyone had anything new to present.
 - i. No has nothing new to report.
- b. Mr. Kissinger states the next meeting is scheduled for July 19th, 2021 at 1800 hours.
- c. Mr. Kissinger states Earth Day 2021 went well
 - i. He thanks the commission members for staffing the table setup at the event.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. 331 W. Douglass Street – Dead Dogwood
- b. Windsor and Madison, on Madison two dead trees
- c. Schuylkill Av going over the bridge towards the school, left hand side, tree missing bark

12. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Yevics, seconded by Mr. Ryan at 1950 hours