

RSTC Minutes for May 17th, 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
- 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, **ABSENT**

2. Presenters / Guests:

- a. None

3. Review of the minutes from April, 2021

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

4. Report of permits

- a. For April, 2021
 - i. Removals – 15
 - ii. Pruning – 5
 - iii. Planting – 13

5. Arborist Report

- a. Classes Attended
 - i. Bobcat Training
- b. Letters sent to Property owners
 - i. None for the month April
- c. Notice of Violations Issued
 - i. 9 for either hazards, pruning, removals or other violations for the month of April
 1. 4 – have be moved to citation
 2. 10 – still pending court or listed as open since the start of 2020
 3. 22 – cases pending inspection or court for 2021

- 4. 8 – have been closed for year 2021
 - d. Adopt-a-Tree
 - i. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree agreements for Spring of 2021
 - ii. 0 – Letter of interest for Spring 2021
 - e. Invoices for April 2021
 - i. 0 – to property owners
 - ii. 18 – for In House work totaling \$56,320.40 since the start of the year
 - 1. Most recent jobs:
 - a. Eglemans Park – Tree Planting
 - b. City Park – Tree Planting
 - c. 1311 Orchard Road – Trees Down
 - d. Skyline Drive – Trees Down
 - e. 304 N. Front Street – Partial Tree Removal
 - f. 227 S. 6th Street – Partial Branch Removal
 - iii. 7 – Contractor Invoices totaling \$30,744.57 since the start of the year
 - 1. Most recent jobs:
 - a. EJ Dives
- 6. Request for Variance in having to replant
 - a. None
- 7. Review of Zoning Plans
 - a. Ritter Proposed Residence, 417 McArthur Ave, City of Reading – Berks Co. Pennsylvania. Approval of the proposed Landscaping presented on Z101, dated February 16th, 2021 and revision dated April 9th, 2021 for project # 1846-50-21.
 - b. 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. Approval of the Landscaping Plan presented on LP-1, pages 7 of 15 dated April 6th, 2021 job # 1006508.020.
 - c. Preliminary / Final Land Development Plan for the Marion Street Station, Reading Fire Department, 1201 N. 9th Street, City of Reading – Berks Co. Pennsylvania. Approval of the Landscaping Plan presented on Sheet LD-4, Site Layout, page 5 of 17 and LD-9, Landscape Details and Notes, page 10 of 17 dated December 3rd, 2020 Job # 1476-1.
- 8. Old Business
 - a. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he will schedule the following shortly:
 - 1. Oley & Church St
 - 2. Keffer Park
 - 3. 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 nothing new to report.
 - ii. Mr. Reimer talks briefly about the article recently in the paper
- d. Capital Budget 2021
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the plan is to use the \$90,000 allocated in the Capital Budget for the 5th Street Pruning project. He states the administration will need to move \$5,000.00 to cover the rest of the cost as the project was awarded at \$95,000.00 under last year's budget.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states the work is all but finished. He notes the contractor started at Canal Street and has worked north. He states work has been completed so far up to Amity Street. He states work is expected to continue until finished.

9. New Business

- a. Budget:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reviewed the budget for 2021 up to the end of April. No major changes or expenditures
- b. Planting Projects
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states 12 trees have been planted this spring. He states planting occurred in City Park, and Eglemans.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger explains there is still plenty of room in these parks for additional plantings due to the amount of trees 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 planting projects should be done of large scale this year.
 - 1. Pending CoVid-19 a larger project could be considered for fall with hopes of getting students to assist.
- c. EAB treatments 2021
 - i. Mr. Kissinger awarded the bid to Klahr Landscape. He reminds everyone that Klahr was the lowest bid at \$5,869.50.
 - 1. He states treatments have already began

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 June 21st, 2021 at 1800 hours.
 - c. Mr. Kissinger states Arbor Day 2021 went well
 - i. Mr. Kissinger notes 10 trees were planted in City Park, and 2 trees in Eglemans Park
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger thanked Met-Ed for their contribution to the planting. He reminds the Commission that Met-Ed provided funding of \$1,500 for the trees.
- 11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:
 - a. Mr. Moodhart states he has two things.
 - i. First 141 N. 5th Street – Dead Tree. Mr. Kissinger states the property has already received a Notice of Violation
 - ii. Second 131 W. Windsor Street – Dead Tree. Mr. Kissinger states he is already working with the property owner to have the tree removed. He states a permit has been secured.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Yevics, seconded by Mr. Moodhart at 1930 hours