

RSTC Minutes for May 17th, 2022

Meeting called to order at 1615 hours by Mr. Kissinger, Jr.

Special Notes: None

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. Pamela S Gockley – Member
 - g. Donna Reed – City Council
 - h. Jeff Thompson – Support - **ABSENT**
 - i. Kyle Zeiber – Public Works Operations Manager / Acting Director - **ABSENT**
2. Presenters / Guests:
 - a. None
3. Review of the minutes from April, 2022
 - a. Motion to approve made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Gockley
 - i. All in favor, no objections
4. Report of permits for the months of March
 - a. Removals: 14
 - b. Pruning: 4
 - c. Plantings: 53
5. Arborist Report
 - a. Classes Attended
 - i. None
 - b. Letters sent to Property owners for the month of April
 - i. None
 - c. Notice of Violations Issued
 - i. 3 for either hazards, pruning, removals or other violations for the month of April
 1. (5) moved to Citation since January
 2. (9) for re-inspection
 3. (11) Cases open pending Court for the year of 2021
 - d. Adopt-a-Tree
 - i. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree agreements for Spring of 2022

- ii. 0 – Letter of interest for Spring 2022
 - e. Invoices for 2022
 - i. 0 – to property owners
 - ii. In House work totaling \$12,670.00 for the year
 - 1. Recent work being storm clean up:
 - a. Angora Road (Tree Down)
 - iii. Contractor Invoices totaling \$70,313.61 for the year
 - 1. Most recent jobs:
 - a. Spruce St from S. 3rd to S. 7th
 - b. Douglass St from N. Front to Schuylkill Av
 - c. N. 3rd St from Green to Robeson
 - d. William Lane
6. Request for Variance in having to replant
- a. None
7. Review of Zoning Plans
- a. 235-241 W. Buttonwood St
 - i. Planting strip to be installed in front of the properties. Two trees removed from curb side. Replacement not warranted due to utility conflicts
8. Old Business
- a. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger had nothing to report
 - b. Capital Budget 2022
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he would like to use the funds for the purchasing of a new truck. He states the remaining funds would go to a pruning project. The current dump truck could then be used by another department or reallocated.
9. New Business
- a. Budget:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reviewed the current budget status for 2022.
 - b. Planting Projects
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he will be working with Larry Lloyd from Berks Nature for additional plantings later this year.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states Arbor Day went well. 26 trees were planted at E.J. Dives
 - 1. Kissinger states Berks Nature and Met-Ed green team assisted with the plantings

- c. EAB (Emerald Ash Bore)
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states Arbor Essence will begin work shortly. He notes Ash are late to leaf out this year.
 - ii. Kissinger states 65 sites were evaluated but only 63 trees will be treated, with two being removed previously. Kissinger notes this is the third round of treatment for these trees.

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Kissinger states the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21st, 2022 at 1800 hours.
- b. Mr. Kissinger provides a brief update on the MP3 initiatives with regards to the trail feasibility study and forester management plan. Kissinger notes this plan will also look to address the line of site concerns at the look outs along Skyline Drive.
- c. Ms. Reed briefed the commission on the 100th year anniversary of the Mother Tree at Antietam Lake. She states a ceremony will be held in conjunction with the 275th Anniversary of the City. She is asking the commission to keep it in mind and perhaps participate in the activities tentatively scheduled for May 12th, 2023.
 - i. Ms. Reed explained the history surrounding the Mother Tree Movement from 1923 which then became a national event.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. 407 N. 5th St. – Dead Tree

12. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Gockley, seconded by Ms. Yevics at 1745 hours