

RSTC Minutes for November 15th, 2021

Meeting called to order at 1640 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.
- No meeting held for the month of October

1. Attendance:

- a. Lester Kissinger, Jr. – City Arborist, Shade Tree Administrator / Chair
- b. Robert Reimer – Member
- c. David Moodhart – Member - **ABSENT**
- d. Margaret Yevics – Member
- e. Thomas Ryan – Member
- f. Pamela S Gockley – Member
- g. Donna Reed – City Council, **ABSENT**
- h. Jeff Thompson – Support
- i. John Denick – Support, **ABSENT**
- j. Kyle Zeiber – Public Works Operations Manager

2. Presenters / Guests:

- a. None
 - i. Note Mary Ciarlone was scheduled to attend but did not show up

3. Review of the minutes from September, 2021

- a. Motion to approve made by Ms. Yevics, seconded by Mr. Ryan
 - i. All in favor, no objections

4. Report of permits for the month of September and October

- a. Removals: 28
- b. Pruning: 6
- c. Plantings: 92

5. Arborist Report

- a. Classes Attended
 - i. Changing Landscape Practices: Implication of Landowner and Local Officials
 - ii. Board Leaf Evergreen Identification
- b. Letters sent to Property owners for the month of September and October
 - i. None
- c. Notice of Violations Issued
 - i. 21 for either hazards, pruning, removals or other violations for the month of September and October

1. (11) moved to Citation
2. (1) for re-inspection
3. (7) Cases still pending Court for the year of 2020 or list as open out of 111
4. (42) Cases open pending Inspection or Court for 2021
5. (59) Case 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 2021
 - i. 0 – to property owners
 - ii. 46 – for In House work totaling \$117,750.40 since the start of the year
 1. Most recent jobs September:
 - a. Recent jobs for the month of September.
 - b. Varies locations see Invoice
 - c. Brookline Pl @ Circle
 - d. SRT
 - e. Rotray Park
 2. Recent jobs for the month of October
 - a. PW
 - b. City Park
 - c. South of Penn Garage
 - d. Stadium Front
 - e. Eglemans Park
 - iii. 34 – Contractor Invoices totaling \$163,862.00 since the start of the year
 1. Most recent jobs for September and October:
 - a. Douglass St, Schlegel, Baer Park, Windsor St
 - b. Mineral Spring Park
 - c. 13th St Extension
 - d. Hancock Blvd & Gerry, Rotary Park
 - e. E. Wyo
 - f. 523 Chestnut
 - g. N. 6th St, Walnut St
6. Request for Variance in having to replant
 - a. None
7. Review of Zoning Plans
 - a. Revised Land Development Plan (attached) for the Super Natural Foods III, City of Reading – Berks Co. Pennsylvania. I approve the revised Landscaping Plan presented on Plan # T18 – 011 – D, SHT 6 of 7 revision dated June 15th, 2021.
 - b. I have reviewed the Prince and Princess Daycare Updated Landscape Plan and approve the addition of the additional tree
 - c. I have reviewed the Albright College Exeter Hall LDP for Albright College and MPG Acquisitions LLC, Job: Exeter Hall City of Reading – Berks Co.

Pennsylvania. I approve the proposed Landscaping presented on SHT 5 of 11, Project # 2021-042, dated October 5th, 2021.

- d. M.J. Reider LDP - Unable to render approval or denial: I have reviewed the LDP for M.J. Reider, 103 & 107 Angelica Street City of Reading – Berks Co. Pennsylvania. I have no objection to the landscaping area & landscaping wall proposed on the site plan presented on SHT 1 of 3 dated June 22nd, 2021, Project # 3762. However, I am unable to render a final approval or denial since planting material / species are not specified. I ask that a revision be submitted showing a landscaping plan that depicts what is to be planted in the landscaping area.
- e. I have reviewed the Sketch Plan for Record / Landscape Plan for the Day Care Center, 1010 Elm Street City of Reading – Berks Co. Pennsylvania. I approve the proposed Landscaping presented on SHT 2 of 3, Plan # T21-020, dated September 22nd, 2021.

8. Old Business

- a. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states work continues on an as needed basis. He states all the major parks have been completed.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger notes work is currently happening at 6th
- b. 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 October. No majors changes or expenditures
- b. Planting Projects
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he has been working with the Reading Parking Authority a large planting to replenish what was recently removed during the sidewalk project.
 - 1. He notes 83 trees are being planted. He states he is currently working with Berks Nature who is assisting with the plantings.
 - 2. Mr. Kissinger states the last 26 trees will be planted this Friday, November 19th to wrap this project.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states Larry Lloyd from Berks Nature is interested in doing additional plantings going into 2022.
 - 1. The initial wave will be in varies Parks.
 - a. Mr. Kissinger states additional trees will be planted in City Park, EJ Dives, Schlegel, and Brookline. He notes this is subject to change based off weather and availability.

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Kissinger states he continues to address the commission concerns. He asked if anyone had anything new to present.
 - i. Mr. Thompson inquired if plantings would occur in the area of Schuylkill Ave and Windsor where all the construction is currently taking place.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger states that is a State project and that he would need to look into it.
- b. Mr. Kissinger states the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 20th, 2021 at 1800 hours.
 - i. Mr. Kissinger asked if this was going to be a meeting or the annual dinner. The commission was in favor of continuing the tradition of doing a dinner. A discussion was held on where to have the dinner. The Commission agreed to 6th and Canal Pub.
- c. Ms. Gockley mentioned about doing outreach to the realtors association and flippers who work in the City. She notes the need to raise awareness about the value of mature trees and what they bring to the environment. Ms. Gockley asked if this is something she could begin to work on and get out for advertisement to the public.
 - i. Mr. Zeiber states that would need to go thru our media guy for advertisement. He states once things are in motion to let Mr. Kissinger know so he can forward.
- d. Mr. Kissinger asked about the meeting schedule for next year. Mr. Kissinger states we can still do the 3rd Monday but the time will need to be adjust. He also offered moving the meeting to the 3rd Tuesday if there was no objection.
 - i. The commission discussed briefly and decided that the 3rd Tuesday will work. They suggested keeping the time at 6pm.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states he will put the scheduled together and get it out for advertisement.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. None

12. Adjournment:

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