

Reading Shade Tree Commission

Minutes from the January 4th, 2016 Meeting

1. Meeting called to order at 6:15 pm by Robert Reimer
2. Attendance:
 1. David Ruyak
 2. Lester Kissinger, Jr.
 3. David Moodhart
 4. Robert Reimer
3. Review of minutes from 12/7/2015 meeting
4. 2016 Meeting Dates
 1. January 4th
 2. February 1st
 3. March 14th
 4. April 4th
 5. May 2nd
 6. June 6th
 7. July 11th
 8. August 1st
 9. September 12th
 10. October 3rd
 11. November 7th
 12. December 5th
5. Report of permits for December, 2015
 1. Removals - 8
 2. Pruning - 3
 3. Planting - 0
6. Annual Report of Permits for 2015
 1. Removals - 141
 2. Pruning - 34
 3. Planting - 2
 4. Total of 177 permits were issued for 2015 from the City Arborist's Office
7. Arborist Report
 1. 2015 Hazard Tree Letters
 1. 208 letters were sent out
 2. 163 have been completed
 3. 45 'outstanding'
 2. 2015 Contracted removals that were invoiced to 13 property owners
 1. \$10,478 was spent on contracted tree removals then invoiced to the property owners
 2. Of that, \$3,951.75 has been paid back to the RSTC
 3. \$6,527.00 has yet to be paid to the RSTC
 3. 19 Hazard tree letters were sent out in December
8. Request for Variance
 1. None

9. Shade Tree Contract
 1. Council still needs to review and approve the contract
 2. Should be presented at the next scheduled Council meeting
10. Review of Zoning Plans
 1. 315 N. 3rd Street
 1. Property owner needs to provide some screening (as required by CoR Zoning)
 2. L. Kissinger, Jr. is working with property owner to allow for the installation of planters
 2. Heritage Park
 1. 3 trees need to be removed in order for emergency work to take place over the Sanitary sewer line
 2. The plan is to place 2 or 3 trees back in once the work is done
 3. Approved plans provided for the Family Dollar being built at South 6th & Bingaman
 4. Southeast Library
 1. Removing 3 crab apples
 2. Will look into planting a *Quercus coccinea* to be re-dedicated as the Wallace Stevens memorial tree
 5. Pendorf Park
 1. Tree came down as a result of the ground disturbance that took place when the new Olivet's building was installed
 2. There are additional trees that are now leaning and will be removed
 3. L. Kissinger, Jr. and D. Hoag believe that the contractor's work is the direct cause of the trees failing
 1. Will be preparing an invoice to cover the costs associated with the removals
 2. CoR Law Office may get involved, if necessary
11. Schuylkill River Trail Project
 1. Working with Penn State Berks
 2. D. Ruyak will continue to update RSTC as information becomes available
12. Emerald Ash Borer UPDATE
 1. L. Kissinger, Jr. is putting together a list of the properties and trees that need a chemical treatment
 2. S. Kondash (Arborist Assistant) is cleaning up the list for pruning work based on the inventory and the street sweeper routes
 1. Partial list is currently up to about 170 trees that need to be pruned
13. RSTC Observations / Concerns
 1. D. Moodhart had stated that there is a stump that was never removed at Madison & Greenwich, on Madison Avenue
14. Meeting adjourned @ 7:50 pm