

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
APRIL 3, 2023**

The Shade Tree Commission met on Monday, April 3, 2023 at Borough Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Chairperson Patrick Kaag; Commission Members Lynne Burns, Chad Moyer Zachary Shaver, and Carol Leiendecker; Borough Manager Dean Murray; and Public Works Director Kerry Grassley.

Visitors: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:59 p.m.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of the February 6, 2023 meeting was made by Ms. Burns and seconded by Mrs. Leiendecker. **Motion carried.**

Tree Planting: Public Works is checking out different species to plant such as Lilacs, Swamp Oaks, Service Berries, and Eastern Redbuds. We previously utilized trees with a 2" caliper but decided to pursue those with a 4" caliper for added strength following the planting process. Also, considering diversifying species within the same block to prevent the spread of disease and pests. Also, consideration to plant memorial trees for the lives lost at the Palmer factory explosion, potentially near the walking bridge. Will check soil and safety of proposed location.

Tree Trimming: South 5th from old ER entrance to Spruce Street & the 500 Block of Spruce Street (Completed). Currently working on 200/300/400 Block of Reading Avenue.

Tree Removals: (1) Oak tree near 416 Reading Ave (Dead), (3) Zelcovas on 500 Block of Spruce Street choked out from root systems. Looking to replace Kwanzan Cherries with Columnal Cherries after removal due to height requirements and condition of the existing trees.

Tree Watchlist: (1) tree near 124 N. 3rd Avenue at corner of 3rd Avenue & Summit Street, (2) trees on Oak Terrace on 400 Block due to serious decline, (1) tree on 4th Avenue & Chestnut Street, (2) trees on 2nd Avenue & Spruce Street, (2) trees on 300 Block of Buttonwood Street.

*Looking for members to take training for Street Tree education, potentially online through Penn State.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. was made by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Ms. Burns. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Kaag, CBO
West Reading Borough Council