

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
AUGUST 7, 2023**

The Shade Tree Commission met on Monday, August 7, 2023 at Borough Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Chairperson Patrick Kaag; Commission Members Lynne Burns, Zachary Shaver, and Carol Leiendecker; Borough Manager Dean Murray; and Public Works Director Kerry Grassley. Member Michael Hayes was unable to attend.

Visitors:	Chip Lutz, Property Owner	Rob Charlesen, Resident
	Samantha Kaag, Resident	Klint Neiman
	Pamela Glockley	

Public Comment:

Homeowners from Playground Drive expressed concern for a dead tree in the planting strip near 406 Playground Drive and a stump that needs to be removed from 408 Playground Drive. Homeowners were concerned about roots affecting sidewalks and underground utilities. Discussion between the Public Works Director, Borough Manager, and homeowners was held, and problems will be addressed.

Mr. Neiman expressed concern about a tree that was recently removed near the corner of Grape Street and Fourth Avenue. This tree was apparently removed without authorization by a tree service for some construction happening in that location. Discussion between the Public Works Director, Borough Manager, and Mr. Neiman was held, and problems will be addressed.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of the April 3, 2023 meeting was made by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Mr. Shaver. **Motion carried.**

New Business

Playground Drive – A dead tree discussion was held concerning this issue during public comment.

Delaney Circle – Shopping center trees were discussed with Mr. Lutz to address issues with some of the trees surrounding Delaney Circle, affecting the sidewalks and his properties. He suggested either the possibility of removing the trees or some of the branches overhanging some of his properties. His concern is that debris from the tree is clogging gutters, coating bricks, and signage, and roots raising sidewalks. A discussion between the Public Works Director, Borough Manager, and Mr. Lutz was held and potential solutions will be presented to Mr. Lutz after reviewing the issues.

329 S. Third Avenue – A resident approached the Chairman about a low hanging tree branch on South Third Avenue in front of 329 that is getting hit by vehicles and looks to be at risk of breaking off and falling into the street. Public Works removed a branch in order to save the tree and to prevent vehicles from becoming damaged.

Sycamore Road & Linden Lane – Aphid residue was report by resident Mrs. Livingood who approached the Chairman about whether or not something can be done about the large amount of sap/residue falling from some of the trees on Sycamore Road and Linden Lane onto cars and property. The resident believed it was potentially due to Aphid secretions, but the Commission as a whole believes it is due to the abnormal seasonal weather during the spring and summer months. The weather and natural cycle of those trees resulted in increased sap production/release. Aphid activity is not common in those types of trees, but instead is more common on streets like Wayne Avenue. Trees can

be treated for Aphids, but this does not seem to be necessary for the trees in question on Sycamore Road and Linden Lane.

Penn Avenue – Resident and business owner Ms. Shenk sent an email inquiring about potentially adding solar lights to the street trees on Penn Avenue. Ms. Shenk stated that the L.O.V.E. Team of West Reading is willing to do more research and pick up the costs if approved. Commissioners had additional questions about the proposed installation before proceeding. An email will be sent to Ms. Shenk with the additional questions.

Tree Planting: Mr. Grassley stated that some planting will continue in September, referencing a compiled list.

Tree Trimming: Mr. Grassley stated that each week a block of Penn Avenue is scheduled to be trimmed.

Tree Removals: 406 Playground Drive – 398 Sunset Road – Last tree on the east side of North Third Avenue

Tree Watchlist: Fourth Avenue & Chestnut Street will be dead limbing a Sycamore, dead limbing is also planned for Sycamore Road, 404 Oak Terrace has a tree that is added to the watchlist, 403 Oak Terrace has mushroom growth around the base of the tree signifying root rot.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. was made by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Ms. Burns. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Kaag, CBO
West Reading Borough Council