

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING  
SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 2, 2023**

The Shade Tree Commission met on Monday, October 2, 2023 at Borough Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Chairperson Patrick Kaag; Commission Members Michael Hayes and Carol Leiendecker; Borough Manager Dean Murray; and Public Works Director Kerry Grassley. Members Lynne Burns and Zachary Shaver were unable to attend.

**Visitors:** None

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes of the August 7, 2023 meeting was made by Mrs. Leiendecker and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

**New Business**

**London Plane Trees** – A discussion was held between the members as to some of the issues occurring with the larger trees on Sunset & Sycamore Roads. Public Works Director stated that trimming of dead limbs on both streets will be conducted before the end of October, for 2" or larger limbs that may be at risk of breaking and falling. These trees make it difficult to identify branches that may fall because many of the fallen limbs still have leaves on them.

**Tree Plantings** – Public Works ordered fifteen (15) trees already, along with approximately another seven (7). Five (5) Crimson Maples, which grow to about 25' x 25', and they are slated to be planted on Ann Street. Nine (9) Columnar Cherry trees of various colors (red-pink-white), and they are slated to be planted on Spruce Street between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**Tree Trimming** – The plan is to begin trimming on the west side of the Borough and move eastward. A plan is being constructed around the principle that trees should be trimmed every five to six years, and then adjusting each year accordingly.

**Tree Removals** – The tree near 386 Sunset Road was removed and the adjoining trees are being treated to prolong the life span, but they may need to be removed soon. The tree near 421 Sunset Road is slated to be removed in the beginning of 2024.

**Tree Watchlist** – Two trees near South 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Spruce Street may need to be removed along with one Sycamore Tree near 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Chestnut Street because it requires constant removal of dead limbs.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Kaag, CBO  
West Reading Borough Council