

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
November 22, 2022**

The meeting of the Public Works Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Barry Christman. Committee members present in addition to Mr. Christman were Keith Endy, Gene Gabel, and ex-officio member Frank Deery.

Also present were Councilman Jeffrey Cascino; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Bruce Hansley, Street Supervisor; Ralph Schoenly and Alex Eidle, Inframark LLC.; Jason Newhard, SSM, Inc.; and interested citizens.

Mr. Christman called for public comment on the agenda; no comments were forthcoming.

Mr. Christman made a motion, second by Mr. Gabel, to approve the minutes of the October 25th, 2022 meeting of the Committee. The motion was approved.

Street Supervisor Report

Mr. Hansley reviewed the monthly report on the activities of the street department.

Unfinished Business

Community Park Bank Stabilization – Nothing new to report.

ROW - Weed Control – As requested the committee was provided with current information published by the EPA and the National Pesticide Information Center on the use of glyphosate based products. The committee also reviewed information researched and provided by Mr. Endy concerning the use of horticultural vinegar. It was noted that the EPA, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection have not banned the use of glyphosate based products for commercial weed control. The Borough's general liability insurance policy does include coverage for pesticide application. The manufacturer of Round-Up has decided not to produce and sell the product for residential use in 2023. The use of glyphosate based products by commercial pesticide licensed applicators is permitted. Mr. Endy stated that the use of horticultural vinegar would incur a direct cost to the Borough of \$19,600, which equates to 4 applications of the product to control weed growth within the ROW. Commercial applicators will not apply horticultural vinegar; application of the product by the Public Works employees would take eight weeks, two weeks per application in the months of March, May, July and September. No on-street parking can occur during the application because the product is acidic. All cars will have to be removed from the streets during spraying and the Borough will have a vinegar smell during spraying. Mrs. Loder advised the committee that she contacted Colebrookdale Township, Douglass Township, Montgomery County and West Reading Borough to inquire if they have a ROW weed spraying program, which they do not. West Reading Borough stated that they street sweep two times per month, which helps to control weed growth within the street gutter.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the Borough will discontinue the practice of weed spraying the public ROW and will encourage residents through the Borough website to manage the growth of weeds along the street gutter in front of their property.

New Business

There was no new business to conduct.

Public Comments

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. was made by Mr. Christman and seconded by Mr. Endy. The next meeting of the Public Works Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, December 20th, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Manager