

Minutes of Leonia Shade Tree Commission's Regular meeting held June 9, 2021

Present: Christine Healy, Imanta Bergmanis, Bill Ziegler, Kathi Verbeek, Vivian DeMarco, Soo Joung Woo, Mark Spiegel, John Villareal, Charles Moren

Absent: Julie Ulbrich

Two committee openings need to be filled. Please reach out to Imanta and Christine if you have any suggestions.

Approval of minutes for May meeting will be circulated

The meeting is in compliance with the Open Meeting Act as the date, time, and place of all regular meetings were filed with the Borough Clerk and have been properly publicized.

Public Portion: none

Council Liaison Report:

- Pride Flags raised and flying on Broad Ave
- Plastic Bag Ban will be reinforced. Timetable and communication to be determined.
- 75% Leonians vaccinated, similar to Park Ridge and Glenrock, compared to 62% NJ.
- Requirement to wear masks have been lifted.
- Cannabis ordinance – prohibit retail establishments in Leonia
- Community Choice Energy Aggregation – Town to buy renewable energy in bulk which will pass on savings for taxpayers.
- Operating & Capital budgets have been approved.

Chairperson Report:

- Leonia Day – Looking at September/October for a day. Being evaluated by M&C. Need to determine a date that the proclamation can be read.
- Environmental Committee project to revamp Highwood Hills
 - Cat briar & Tree removal – getting quotes
 - EC will oversee the planting for reforestation
 - Clean up could be an Eagle Scout project; others can join in the clean up
- Downtown Planting Strategy
 - Where trees have come down, where sidewalks have been cutout. Boy Scout project to take an inventory
- New stump grinder approved in the budget. Email John V. if you see stumps that need removal.
- Walkabout end date July 2021 – in progress
- Spring 2021 Planting – 30 Trees planted, including some on private property. Watering of trees by DPW.
- Need to focus on Fall Plantings – 2 private properties, 5 Public by August Meeting
- Private Property letter will be circulated again

Commissioner's Report

- Grand Ave trees – John V. to reach out to the State for assistance to have them removed
- 312 Magnolia planted by Scerbo, not fully blooming, may need to be removed
- Silver Maple on Woodridge Place, NE corner, assessed by Chuck
- Silver Maple in Fireman's Park
- New Ordinance/Community Outreach:
 - STC Ordinance flyer mailed with the Estimated Tax bill by the Tax Office
 - Kathi & Soo to meet with Sean, Rec Center, to plan postcard mailing
 - STC ads submitted to Aviva to be included in the Town Calendar
- CEUs – need 8 for the year

adjourned at 9:10