

**Leonia Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2022**

Present: Christine Healy-Sammis, Imanta Bergmanis, Mark Spiegel, Soo Joung Woo, Kathi Verbeek, Laura-Lindsay Sewell and Bill Ziegler (Council Liaison).

Call to order: 7:38 pm

Approval of minutes for January 2022 meeting.

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.

Council Liaison Report: Bill Ziegler reported on key matters affecting the Borough being addressed by the Mayor and Council.

Chairperson Report:

- Imanta and Christine went over plans with the Borough engineer for the new Municipal Building.

- Christine reported that she put in the application for Tree City USA. It would be our 33rd Year. We have also applied for a Growth Award.

Commissioners' Reports: None

2022 Operating and Capital Budget:

- Bill reported that submission of the capital budget is due by end of February. Imanta reported STC's operating budget proposal was submitted to the Borough in December
- STC's proposal for the capital budget will allow for 30 trees for both plantings

Public Portion:

- David Braun discussed the new masterplan being made, and that the two designated Landmark Trees would be on the masterplan. The Bald Cypress does need to be re-designated. He also asked if STC had anything else to add to the new masterplan.
- J. Lee Groves wanted to discuss a tree at 101 Leonia Avenue

Discussion on Pollarding vs. Topping: Discussion on this topic was again postponed, as we are awaiting information from Chuck Moran on other ordinances that have protected trees from this practice in other towns. Then we can discuss what approach we want to take.

Grand Avenue Evaluation Project: Christine is planning to divide Grand Avenue amongst Commissioners so that each may evaluate the trees for pruning/removal/stump removal, and send a master list to the attention of the State.

Private Property Planting Program:

- Julie contacted the graphic arts teacher at LHS and 2 art students are designing a flyer for this.
- Discussion of splitting up the town and each taking a portion. Laura-Lindsay said she could divide it up. Imanta said she could send her a map.

Media and Marketing: Kathi said she is close to getting the purchase order for the postcards. Then she and Sean will mail the new postcards out.

Discussion on removal of trees in connection with new sidewalk/curb project on Broad between Summit and Highwood: No new information to report

Memorial Plantings: No new information to report

Leonia Day 2022:

- Date is set for Sunday, May 15, 12:00-4:00 pm
- STC will have a table at Leonia Day as usual but will not be planning the entire event this year.

Downtown Leonia – Business District Revitalization Plan:

- Mark looked into protecting the downtown trees with wrought iron gates. It would cost about \$1,000 per tree.
- Julie proposed putting in trees where concrete already exists, and possibly having a green space in the Dunkin Donuts parking lot.

New/Old Business:

- The Methodist Church agreed to take the large spruce that was given to the Borough
- Of interest – David Braun recommended a series of mysteries written by a Leonia author that take place in “Arborville, NJ.”