

Leonia Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes January 12, 2022

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

Approval of minutes for December 8, 2021 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.

Public Portion: None

Council Liaison Report: Bill Zeigler reported on key matters affecting the borough being addressed by the Mayor & Council.

Chairperson report

- Discussion on excavation and development of property including removal of trees at 401 Grand Ave. The Shade Tree Commission was not informed prior to the removal of trees at the site and the lot has been clear-cut. There was discussion on how to ensure the STC's involvement in development projects involving trees being removed or impacted by the project.

Commissioners' Reports

- 128 Gladwin: Imanta reported that she together with Christine evaluated the tree and sidewalk. The tree appeared healthy and there are other viable options, other than removal of the tree, to address the modest uplifting of the sidewalk.

Election of Officers: After discussion, upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously adopted it was

RESOLVED, that the following Commissioners were appointed to the positions identified below:

- Co-chairs: Imanta Bergmanis and Christine Healy-Sammis
- Secretary: Shared responsibility with each member being assigned a meeting where he or she will take minutes of the meeting
- Marketing Chairs: Kathi Verbeek and Soo Joung Woo
- Fall/Spring Planting Chairs: Imanta Bergmanis and Christine Healy-Sammis
- Walk About Chair: Laura-Lindsay Sewell
- Chair of Planning Board Project: Mark Spiegel
- Private Property Planting Co-Charis: Julie Ulbrich and Vivian DeMarco

2022 Operating and Capital Budget: Imanta reported the Commission's operating budget proposal for 2022 that was electronically circulated to the Commissioners for

review was submitted in December 2021 to the Borough for the Mayor & Council's consideration. The Capital Budget proposal for 2022 is due for submission in February 2022.

Discussion on Pollarding vs. Topping: Discussion on this topic was postponed; Awaiting information on other ordinances that may have addressed protection of trees from this practice possibly in Paramus, River Edge, etc.

Grand Avenue Evaluation Project for tree/stump removal to communicate to the State of NJ – Christine is planning to divide Grand Ave 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: There was discussion on including pictures of species of trees with the letter informing residents of the program.

Media and Marketing: Kathi and Soo updated on status of postcard mailing. Discussion on posting on Facebook and updates to the Leonia Borough website STC page. Postcards approximately \$400 to print and \$1100 to mail.

Discussion on removal of trees in connection with new sidewalk/curb project on Broad between Summit and Highwood: Christine updated on the trees being removed as part of the project. It is projected after evaluation that 8 trees will need to be removed for project, health, and safety reasons. For every tree removed, 2 new trees will be planted.

Memorial Plantings: No new information to report.

Leonia Arbor Day proclamation for 2021: Christine reported the proclamation was submitted to the Mayor for his signature.

Leonia Day 2022: The Borough is seeking volunteers to take over the organization of this annual event.

Downtown Leonia – Tree Planting Project: No new information to report.

Revisions to Chapter 275-16 Landmark Trees: Imanta is working on revisions to this portion of the Ordinance.

New/Old Business

- Christine reported that she will apply for the annual growth award.
- Christine reported that the Annual Forestry Community report is due by Feb 2022 and due annually in order to stay in compliance with the 5 year Community Forestry Management Plan will be due for submission by Dec 31, 2025 as an on-line only submission.
- There was discussion on possible locations for a large spruce that was given the borough including Wood Park and the United Methodist Church on Broad Ave.

Mark offered to reach out to the church to see if they would be interested in having the spruce planted on its front lawn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Imanta Bergmanis