

MINUTES OF LEONIA SHADE TREE COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING November 10, 2021

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

Approval of minutes of October 13, 2021 meeting – approved, 7:38 pm

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: there were no comments and/or questions from residents in this meeting

Liaison Report: Bill Ziegler reported on issues affecting the borough which are being addressed by the Mayor and Counsel:

- Plans for the new municipal building.
- Budget hearings in December.
- Anne Dodd submitted her resignation as Borough Clerk, and Melina Tineo will be taking her place.
- The next phase of re-working Broad Avenue begins next week.
- The Environmental Commission has been working together with the Shade Tree Commission on the Highwood Hills project.
- The proposed billboard in Leonia is on the agenda for the November 22 Planning Board meeting.
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Chairperson Report: Christine Healy reported that most items to report will be covered during other agenda items. Ms. Healy and Imanta Bergmanis looked over Wood Park with John – there are 5 trees that need to come down. STC can then plant new ones in their place. There is also a lot of poison ivy that needs to come out.

Commissioners' Reports: Julie Ulbrich reported that she marked a tree for removal at the top of Summit Avenue. She believes it to be a Norwood Maple, which only had ½ or less canopy during the summer, and the bark is peeling off. She went through gov pilot. The address is 103 Paulin Blvd.

Vivian De Marco asked about Eric Wang's tree, which now looks completely dead. Ms. Healy said that we will look, and possibly replace in next year's fall planting.

Walk About – District 4 for 2021: Christine Healy reported that the walk about is almost complete, except for herself and Kathi Verbeek.

Discussion of tree identifying app – Picture This. Everyone on STC can download the app and submit a purchase order.

Fall Planting: Ms. Healy and Ms. Bergmanis reported that there are 33 trees going in today and tomorrow

We then discussed the issue of there being many good places to plant, but there are too many old stumps that have not been removed. This led to a discussion of the need to assess Grand Avenue and everything that needs to be done there, and putting it into one report to submit to the state. Ms. Healy said that she would break up Grand Ave into approximately 2 blocks per person, and we could each assess our assigned blocks.

Private Property Planting Program: Ms. Ulbrich reported that the final private property planting letter needed to be finalized.

Media and Marketing: Kathi Verbeek has been working with Sean Krakower at the Leonia Rec Center on a mass mailing of the STC postcards that Ms. Verbeek and her husband designed. It will be about \$400 to print 3,000 postcards (just for printing, not including postage). Bill Ziegler will show the mailing to the governing body before it goes out.

New Ordinance: Ms. Healy reported that there is nothing to report.

Memorial Plantings: Ms. Ulbrich will reach out to Brian McAlear about the memorial tree for his mother. He would like to donate the tree that will honor her to the Leonia Shade Tree Trust Fund.

Spotted Lantern Fly: Laura-Lindsay Sewell reported on methods of controlling/eradicating SLF. The best thing to do, that is environmentally friendly, is to check your own yard, patio furniture, trees, large rocks, firewood, etc., stomp out any flies, and scrape off the egg masses and put them in an alcohol solution. You can also apply mineral oil to egg masses. There is also the banding of trees with sticky tape, and getting rid of the invasive Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), by first using an herbicide, then cutting. Tree of Heaven is SLF's preferred host, along with wild grape and oriental bittersweet. Also be aware if you are hiking, etc. in an area that is populated with SLF, that you check your clothing and don't bring any SLF home.

Leonía Arbor Day proclamation for 2021: Ms. Healy reported that she will write it up and give it to Mr. Ziegler.

Downtown Leonia – Tree Planting Project: Ms. Healy reported that this is paused for the present.

Update on Landmark Tree Black Oak 205 Oratam Terrace: no updates. Ms. Verbeek reported that the property is under contract, and Ms. Healy said she would go before things were finalized and take pictures of it. Ms. Healy also brought up the idea of having QR codes for

Landmark Trees, and also for other trees in our parks, so that people can scan the code and learn about the tree.

Review proposed revisions to Chapter 275-16 Landmark Trees: Ms. Bergmanis reported that she will get the language to Mr. Ziegler.

Discussion on public notification and opportunity for residents to provide their input about the removal of a mature street tree: STC discussed Sally and Victor Klig again, and the large Pin Oak that they believed should not come down, and whether or not there should be more of a process for the public to be notified and give input when a tree is marked to come down. Everyone seemed to agree that we do our due diligence, and we don't like to see trees come down, and that when we make the decision that a tree must come down, it is after careful thought and evaluation, and the public weighing in really does not change the reasons that the tree needs to come down. We agreed to go ahead as we have done in the past with hazardous trees, and to try to wait for the next STC meeting after a tree is marked, for non-hazardous trees, so that they will be on the agenda.

Update on Highwood Hills: Ms. Bergmanis reported that the Leonia Environmental Commission and the STC have been collaborating on this, and a great deal of work has been done. People volunteered last weekend, and more will happen this coming weekend. They have removed briar, many weeds, cleaned up trash, laid new trails, put in native plants, etc. STC will put in some larger trees there in the spring planting.

CEUs: Ms. Healy repeated the fact that we need a total of 8 CEUs by the end of December, and encouraged everyone to register for a class. Ms. Bergmanis reported that she might be able to register for a class in December. Ms. Sewell is registered for Best Management Practices for Tree Care on November 12.

New/Old Business: Mr. Ziegler would like to address at the next meeting the homeowners who indicated that they did not want a tree planted by the STC in front of their homes. The addresses are 322 Crescent Avenue and 200 Christie Heights.

Ms. Bergmanis brought up the benches and obelisk that she and Ms. Healy spoke with Sean Krakower about.

Mr. Ziegler reported that STC should talk with Andrea Wardrop, the Borough Administrator, about their interest in having input in the area surrounding the new municipal building. Plantings and a permeable parking area were discussed amongst us.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26