

Leonía Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes June 8, 2022

Present: Imanta Bergmanis, Vivian DeMarco, Kathie Verbeek, Soo Joung Woo, Mark Spiegel, Bill Ziegler (Council Liaison), John Villareal & Charles Moran (Department of Public Works)

May 11, 2022 minutes approved

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

Public Portion: None

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

The process for approving the capital budget will be delayed this year. The chairman of capital budget committee was resigned and the capital budget committee will be substituted by finance committee. The finance committee is a committee of the council and does not approve anything on a case by case basis rather as a package. So STC may need to use the funds in your trust for the fall planting and then they'll be replenished when the financial committee approves the capital budget.

Chairperson Report: Most of the items will be covered in the rest of the agenda.

*35 spring planting done- Most of them were done just the day before days before memorial day. A few were last week. But a few started looking distressed even though we had some rain – Ask DPW for more watering and every STC members to assess those trees (Imanta will send the email). One year warranty for the trees

*Ray Ave. - STC is working with the DPW and the sidewalks are being replaced and so we assess which trees have to go and which can stay. We also trying to talk to residents about possibly putting some trees inside the sidewalk.

*312 Magnolia Ave. – A small cherry tree needs to be removed before our next planting.

*Private fall planting – 15 residents signed up at Leonia day; follow-up including tree & planting site (overhead wire?) selection and maintenance agreement.

Discussion ;

*89 Overlook resident submit a request to remove a dead town tree leaning toward cemetery – it's on removal list. – it was removed 6/9

*9 Palmar place – A healthy town tree pulling up the sidewalk and resident wants to replace with three small trees. (Imanta will assess it)

[Sidewalk Policy]

*STC wants to know what the actual Sidewalk policy is in town

Who is responsible to fix the sidewalk when the town trees lift and damage the sidewalks?

Bill Ziegler will find the answer

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[Proposal for ordinance revision]

About Pollarding or severe pruning & Landmark tree

If we incorporated the industrial standard for pruning into our ordinances, it would help to prevent another pollarding.

"Please review the proposal draft sent out by Imanta by next meeting"

[Walkabout]

Please finish your walkabout and if possible put the data at google sheet by August.

**Helpful Application : Picture this (Reimbursement is available)

[Suggestion to control Tree Removal Process and Application Process]

1. Let Building Department ask for evidence of their license making sure the name is the one that it relates to the tree company because we've had situations where the tree companies license either had expired they were giving us a tree care operator license not a licensed tree expert license
2. putting a sign on the window ; maybe green color permit

[Concern about the project on Grand Ave.]

The roots of trees are damaged by reckless foundation construction, which causes the death of healthy trees.

"How do we stop that kind of damage happening?"

Suggestion to prevent these things in advance,

- 1) include a regulation to protect trees around the development area in the tree ordinance, or
- 2) When developers first submit their development plans to the planning board, they are asked to answer a questionnaire designed to protect the trees along the boundaries of the development, or
- 3) have someone from the shade tree commission as a liaison on the planning board to help protect the trees around the development area.

*putting the white circles on trees are not recommended by DPW

Minutes by Soo Joung Woo