

## Leonia Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2022

Present: Kathi Verbeek, Bill Ziegler (Council Liaison), Christine Healy John Villareal & Charles Moran (DPW), Vivian DeMarco, Mark Spiegel

Absent: Imanta Bergmanis, Soo Joung Woo, Laura Lindsey Sewell, Julie Ulbrich

August and September 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:** No public in attendance.

### **Council Liaison Report:**

1. New police officers joined the force.
2. Alternate side of the street parking in effect due to need for passable lane for fire department and DWP.
3. Octoberfest in Wood Park was successful. Thank you to police and DPW for support.
4. October 17 work meeting will include discussion about sidewalk policy and replacement.
5. Mental health services locally – future discussion of available resources
6. Borough owned vacant land being evaluated for purchase or land use.
7. Overpeck Area 4: draft from Bill regarding Leonia M&C involvement and request for information and inclusion in the process to County.
8. Municipal building – on time and on budget. Parking for police difficult.

### **Chairperson Report:**

**Overpeck Area 4** – Meeting in Hackensack attended by STC Co-chairs and Environmental Chair and other members of Leonia Coalition to Save Overpeck Preserve. STC Co-chairs discussed disappointment with informing the public, need for information regarding appropriate soil replacement/remediation/sourcing. Informed them that last 2 years of meeting minutes were not available to the public. M&C drafting letter to county level to express need for Leonia to be a part of the process for developing Preserve and conversation going forward.

**Fall planting 2022** – bid to Cerbo's Nursery. Planning for 30-35 trees in total including private property plantings.

Request to STC members to look into more site for planting for this fall.

Planting planned for November 2022

### **Broad Ave Area #9 – Broad from Summit to Highwood**

9 tree removed by the contractor, 1 of 9 mistakenly removed.

2:1 planting that were initially discussed were not 2 for price of 1 but instead in number alone and all proposed plantings for this area would be \$550 per tree and planted by the contractor and not a

nursery service. Usual price for tree plantings with Spring/Fall plantings per tree are \$350. STC expected to have #16-18 trees planted in this area but this will not be the case.

**STC Commissioner member position remains open.** Please have interested Leonians apply via the Leonianj.gov website application if interested.

#### **Broad Ave Area #10 – Broad Ave from Highwood to Oakdene**

STC has been made aware that this area contract has already been awarded to a contractor. This will not be the same contractor as in area #9.

The contract for this area has not been received by the STC to date from the Leonia Engineer.

We will need to evaluate the trees in this zone prior to work and will plan for meeting with STC and Charles Moren, Leonia tree expert to assist with this process.

#### **Commissioners reports:**

304 Glenwood Ave – Kathi reports that her neighbor had to remove a dead cherry tree and would like PPP for replacement.

#### **Tree Ordinance revision – completed and approved re: tree expert with DPW**

Change in the ordinance to better accommodate requests for dead/dying/diseased trees.

Process is that Chuck (DPW) receives a request from homeowner/building department to evaluate and fee paid for this service as Tree Expert.

Per Chuck, the permit form only notes 'dead' and should include all above. John Villareal to check with Mark Muller of the Building Department to amend this form.

#### **STC Website revision**

Kathi and Michael Greco have been working diligently to revised the STC website to improve its information, appearance and usability. Congratulated!

New home page includes change with Ordinance Private Property planting information, Spotted Lantern Fly, Agenda/Minutes.

There will be a section dedicated to the Eagle Scout project that Robby Slater is currently working on for Wood Park with tree IDs and QR codes.

STC needs to supply Michael with UTD meeting minutes to post for 2022.

#### **Walk-About for District 5**

Excel spreadsheet needed for update

Actions: 115 Van Orden – pruning/evaluation from Chuck

95 Van Orden Pruning vs. removal

124 Van Orden – Maple for eval/removal

Woodridge – John Villareal to check tree for pruning

Chuck Moren – reports dead tree on Cottage Place. Will report back with house number

Park Ave - Reports newly planted tree on Park Ave that was hit by a car and removed.

This address could have new planting in same site.

236 Overlook – new planting is dead. Could have new planting in same site.

**CEUs: CEU total # for 2022 to date =6.0. STC requires 8/year from 2 different individuals**

Christine, Chuck and John attended virtual CEU sponsored by PSE&G re: Right Tree Right Place.

Chuck: Attended 9/22 and 9/29 at 1.5 CEU per session

John: attended 9/29 for 1.5 CEU

Christine: Attended 9/22/22 for 1.5 CEUs

NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference tomorrow and Friday 10/12 &13 – Chuck and John planning to attend. Will receive CEUs from this conference.

Meeting adjourned 8:49p

Minutes respectfully submitted by Christine Healy-Sammis