

## Leonia Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2022

7:43 pm meeting brought to order

Present: Christine Healy, Soo Joung Woo, Laura-Lindsay Sewell, Mark Spiegel

Absent: Imanta Bergmanis, Julie Ulbrich, Kathi Verbeek, Bill Ziegler (Council Liaison), John Villareal and Charles Moran (DPW), Vivian DeMarco

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 were properly publicized.

**Public Portion:** no public in attendance

**Council Liaison Report:** Council Liaison was absent as he had to attend the Mayor and Council meeting held at the same time

**Chairperson Report:**

**Overpeck Area 4** – the Leonia Mayor and Council sent a letter to the County addressing the Area 4 developments that we were not privy to, and expressing the need for Leonia to be a part of the process going forward.

**Fall Planting 2022** – bid to Cerbo's Nursery. 36 trees were planted on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Cerbo did a great job and the quality of their trees is very good. Some of the trees do not have gaiters – Christine Healy will look into this.

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

Cerbo planted 10 trees in Area 9 (in addition to the 36 planted elsewhere). These trees were medium to small trees, so as to try to avoid issues with the power lines above. Shade Tree Commissioners knocked on the doors of Broad Ave Area 9 multiple times offering Private Property Planting trees in the front yards of those homes, and not a single homeowner wanted one. We will try again in the spring.

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

The contract for this area has still not been received by the STC to date. Christine Healy has asked twice. We really need to evaluate the trees in this area prior to work so that no trees are damaged without need this time. Charles Moran, our Leonia tree expert, will help us to evaluate.

**Responsibility of the sidewalk** - Chairperson Healy brought up the issue of sidewalk responsibility when the health of a town tree is involved. Should the homeowner be responsible, for maintenance of the sidewalk that is done to help the tree? Commissioners who were present seemed mostly to agree that the town should take responsibility for the sidewalk in these cases. Christine suggested we email our opinions on this to Imanta Bergmanis and Bill Ziegler.

**STC Commissioner member position remains open.** Please have interested Leonians apply via the [Leonianj.gov](http://Leonianj.gov) website application if interested.

**Tree Ordinance revision:**

STC is waiting to hear back from John and Chuck about the change of wording on this form.

**Spring Planting 2023** – STC discussed how many of the town trees that were planted in the spring had become distressed during the summer because it was so hot and dry. We decided to encourage more Private Planting trees in the spring, because homeowners are more responsible about watering trees on their own property. We will also try to get them in the ground earlier in the season, possibly April. Then in the fall we will push more for the public trees, which do not receive as much water and care.

**Commissioners reports:**

Mark Spiegel showed us a picture of the tree he had requested at the corner of Woodridge and Wood Terrace – a beautiful maple.

**Walk-About for District 5** – Mark requested a list of addresses for his walk-about – Christine will get it to him tomorrow.

Christine will also re-send the PPP letter with tree types that was sent earlier this year.

**CEUs:**

Between Christine, Chuck and John we have enough CEUs, but Christine will still send out upcoming schedule of classes for those who are interested.

8:26 pm - meeting adjourned

Minutes submitted by Laura-Lindsay Sewell