**Minutes of the Leonia Shade Tree Commission’s regular meeting held Wednesday, May 13, 2015**.

The meeting was in compliance with the Open Meetings Act as the date, time and place of all regular meetings were filed with Borough Clerk on Jan 1, 2014 and had been properly publicized.

**Presen**t: Jane Wilson (Chairperson), Christine Healy-Sammis, Kate Mirbaba, and Richard Stenken, Imanta Bergmanis, Anne Bonadies, Vivian DeMarco.

**Absent**: Gloria Arlak, Meghan Lutz, Maureen Havluch.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm.

**Minutes**: The minutes of the April meeting were read and by vote of the Commissioners present, the minutes were approved.

**Public Portion:** Steve Russo 512 Nordhoff Drive, Leonia. Report of neighbor at 514 Nordhoff Drive complaining of red oak on private property at 512 Nordhoff is ‘dangerous’ and should be removed. Tree experts from both neighbor and Leonia Borough retained to evaluate tree and both recommended removal. Issue with lack of statement in the tree experts’ reports specifically stating “dead or diseased” as would comply with Leonia Ordinance. Mr. Russo will consider removal of tree or obtaining own certified tree expert.

**Council Liaison Report**: No Council members were in attendance, but Maureen relayed that the Emerald Ash Borer letter to M&C was read by Maureen to the M&C during correspondence in May 2015.

**Chariperson’s Report**:

1. Leonia Day plans discussed for set up, give-aways, and volunteering at the tables on 5/17/15.
2. Resident complaint about significant tree removal on private property on Park Ave. As proposed Tree Ordinance requiring permits and fees is still unapproved by Council, there is no current action for Shade Tree Commission to take at this time.

**Commissioner’s Reports:**

Jane Evals: 3 trees for removal and 3 trees for pruning.

Christine Evals:

1. 203 Glenwood – pruning recommended for Norway Maple.
2. 609 & 611 Grand – recommended removal on high priority to the State as Grand is state road for 2 dead trees losing limbs into Grand Ave traffic.

Richard Evals: Overlook Ave – will plan to re-eval tree reported as not leafing out.

**New/Old Business:**

**Leonia Community Chest Grants** – 2 proposals for grants for planting and beautification of parks will be submitted to Community Chest by due date this Friday 5/15/15. The 2 grants are for Firemans/Galone Park and for Wood Park for sums of $5,000 and $7,000 respectively.

**Wood Park Spring planting** – bid requests have been submitted but not yet returned for planting of 7 trees in Wood Park. This includes 3 Norway Spruces and 4 Shade Trees. Matera’s Nursery in conjunction with P&P Landscaping is currently under discussion.

Adjournment: By motion of Jane Wilson and a vote of the Commissioners present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Healy-Sammis.