**Minutes of the Leonia Shade Tree Commission’s regular meeting held Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2017**.

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, 2017 and had been properly publicized.

**Presen**t: Jane Wilson (Chairperson), Christine Healy-Sammis, Vivian DeMarco, Gloria Arlak, Bill Ziegler (Council Liaison), Julie Ulbrich

**Absent**: Richard Stenken, Imanta Bergmanis

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

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

**Public Portion:** No public were in attendance.

**Council Liaison Report**: Mr. Ziegler

1. 111 High Street junction 180 Christie – The M&C have concluded that the existing sidewalk that is not currently functional will be removed. The healthy trees will not be removed.
2. 608 Fort Lee Road – there has been discussion regarding the current property status and future possible development. The discussion is ongoing.
3. Officer Steven Oxnard has been given special assignment to enforce town ordinances and fees regarding Property Maintenance. He is already acting in this role.
4. Borough Administrator interviews are currently been held. There are >20 applicants.
5. Dudley Allen Park – ½ park is now a dawn-to-dusk dog park and the other ½ park is a children’s playground. These spaces are separated by fencing. The plaque for Mr. Allen has been moved to the playground side of the park.
6. Styrofoam Recycling Day – will be November 11, 2017 in Wood Park. Styrofoam collection will occur from 10-3pm. There will also be a shredding truck from 9-1pm.

**Chairperson’s Report**:

1. Emerald Ash Borer status update – Ms. Wilson was accompanied by Ms. Rosa Yoo from the State of NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection and evaluation of Ash trees in district 6 were reviewed. There was distinct evidence of EAB infestation in all marked Ash trees. Approximately 30 trees in district 6 are listed for removal as well as 3 Ash in other districts. Leonia received a letter from the State of New Jersey Department of Agriculture confirming the presence of EAB in the Borough. There was discussion of treating healthy Ash trees with injections every 2-3 years though this option is expensive.
2. The Borough of Leonia’s new CFO Vince Buono requested budget forms completed for Shade Tree Commission operating budget for 2018. $12,000 was requested for 2017. $15,000 was requested for 2018 with this increase need due to removal of multiple Ash trees from EAB infestation. In the past year, 72 trees have been removed and 65 planted. The first STC budget in 1920s was $5,000.

**Commissioner’s Reports:**

Ms. Wilson: 340 Westview – evaluation of Ash tree – recently pruned and in good condition.

194 Highwood – new planting with deer related damage. Planning to purchase tree wraps to protect against deer destroying the bark.

249 Broad – Pin Oak evaluated and request for pruning submitted. Request for tree evaluation also responded to by Officer Steve Oxnard.

16 Hawthorne Terrace – Maple evaluated and request for pruning dead branches submitted.

249 Broad (Allaire Ave. side of property) – branch resting on service line. Pruning requested.

Dr. Ulbrich : Glenwood Ave – Linden tree with large basilar bark injury may need further taping to secure for protection of the trunk.

Ms. Healy – 140 Glenwood – large dead White Pin removed by PSE&G and Leonia DPW. The Norway Maple on Allaire side of property is still in need of removal and is marked.

Ms. Arlak – 340 Sylvan Ave – raised sidewalk with healthy tree discussed.

Ms. Mirababa – 15 Hawthorne – 1 Hawthorne tree did not leaf this year. Discussion regarding watching the tree for another annual cycle and re-eval for growth prior to removal.

**Annual Walk-About – District 6**

The district 6 walk-about is near completion. Multiple Ash trees with EAB infestation recorded as noted earlier in EAB topic.

**New Shade Tree Ordinance regarding trees on private property** – Draft of the ordinance was submitted by Ms. Bergmanis for review. Brief discussion on this topic with the understanding that all STC will review and give recommendations/responses during the next scheduled STC meeting in November. This new ordinance will need to be presented to the Laws and Ordinances committee.

New/Old business: None.

STC adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Healy-Sammis.