

## Leonia Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2022

Present: Christine Healy, Imanta Bergmanis, Kathi Verbeek, Bill Ziegler (Council Liaison), Laura-Lindsay Sewell, Mark Spiegel, Vivian DeMarco, Julie Ulbrich

Absent: Soo Joung Woo, John Villareal and Charles Moran (DPW),

The meeting is compliant 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:

- Operating Budget.
  - Mandatory 23% increase to insurance costs & pension benefits, translates to 8% budget increase overall. Budget is being reviewed to see how to offset some of this mandatory increase
  - STC members should submit an outstanding invoices/receipt to get repaid for 2022
- i.e., CEUs, \$Marketing, Picture This, etc.
- Capital Budget in February
- Current Tree Ordinance revision is being reviewed by Legal.
- STC Ordinance was a subject at the last Mayor & Council Meeting.
  - Home on Paulin Blvd was in process of removing a tree and when asked about their Permit. Said they did not know about the Ordinance. Resident was fined.
  - STC had a discussion regarding having the Tree Company also accountable for a fine as the resident. A motion was put forward to fine the tree Company double the resident fine.
  - Imanta 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Bill will bring this forward to Mayor & Council.
  - Bill suggested that we send a reminder to all residents regarding the Tree Ordinance via the Electronic Sign Board.
- Construction for the New Police and Fire Department is on track and under budget.
- Rent Control Law – No more than a 5% increase
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### Chairperson Report:

- City Tree USA Stickers were updated with 33 years; 6 years of Growth Awards  
STC members needs to submit their hours to Christine for the time commitment they gave in 2022 for Meetings, Walk about, Tree Inspections, etc. Due by January meeting.

- **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.
  - Recommendation is to create a committee: 3 members governing body. 1-2 Committee members. Robert D. County Administrator
- **Fall Planting 2022** – Post note on STC site that Fall Planting have been completed. And looking for Private Property sites for Spring Plantings. Kathi to speak with Mike at Borough Hall to post for us.
- **Spring Planting 2023 Locations** – Each STC member should identify 2-3 properties as ideal sites.
  - Need by Feb/March 1<sup>st</sup> to plant in April
  - Revisit Broad from Summit to Highwood with homeowners for planting.
- STC would like access to Permit information to simplify resident notification process
- **STC Commissioner member position remains open.** Please have interested Leonians apply via the Leonianj.gov website application if interested.

**Commissioner's reports:**

- Tree has been marked at 181 Glenwood Ave for Removal

- meeting adjourned

Minutes submitted by Kathi Verbeek