

Leonia Shade Tree Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2023

Present: Christine Healy, Imanta Bergmanis, Laura-Lindsay Sewell, Mark Spiegel, Vivian DeMarco, Bill Ziegler (council liaison), 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

Minutes: Approved for September 13, 2023 meeting

Public Portion: Open to comments and questions from residents: No public in attendance.

Council Liaison report:

- Bill Ziegler reported that Andrea, the Boro Administrator had been terminated and Scott Tamigny is currently handling her duties. Capital Budget passed. Taxes up 5.5%. Early to mid December is expected for certificate of occupancy for the new building

Chairperson report:

- Imanta asked John to check that it is 10' from the curb in the golf course area where there is no sidewalk. John confirmed that 10' is correct
- Tree at 123 Sylvan needs to come out
- Tree at 147 Sylvan needs to come out
- 127 Prospect there is a dead tree – homeowner would like a replacement
- Discussion of trying to get good quality soil for the new tree pits in the sidewalks – John will reach out to Drew about this
- Broad and Boro Place – roots are a problem for the handicap ramp – the tree might have to be taken out. John will check with Drew to see if the ramp can be moved instead
- 284 Glenwood – homeowner wanted a big Oak to come down. We did not take it down because it was not in the way, but now it needs to come down because there was never a snow fence and the tree is damaged now. There was supposed to be a snow fence.
- Discussion of how STC ordinances should be included in the packet that goes out to home owners who are doing construction. They are required to take measures to protect the trees, and the plans should include any tree that has a caliper of 8" or over
- We need a process of documenting the demise of the tree – periodic assessments during construction. We will table this until our November meeting.
- Hawthorne and Fort Lee – a Norway Maple was hit by lightning – John will check into it
- Upper Park Avenue (421) – John and Chuck pruned a Maple tree and think it is fine until Spring

- Harrison – south side – needs evaluating

Commissioners' Reports:

- Laura-Lindsay – the property manager at the Dunkin Donuts on Broad Avenue does still want a tree – Imanta will look at the space to help evaluate

Walk-About for District 6 for 2023:

- A few commissioners still have not finished – they will by the November meeting

Fall Planting:

- We only received 1 bid back – Cerbo
- ACS Girl Scouts would like to be part of Fall Planting. Christine will reach out to ACS about putting in 3 trees around Highland Place and Fort Lee Road

Spotted Lantern Fly:

- Season is over

Sidewalk Policy:

- John and Chuck are getting more and more calls about sidewalk damage from trees. They will not take down any trees without notifying the STC

Media and Marketing:

- Tax Bill insert went out that included updated STC ordinance denoting \$1500 fine, Private Planting program and the need for volunteers for STC committee.

CEUs – Core:

- Christine will send out info on available classes for CEUs

New/Old Business:

- Need volunteer replacements for STC – Bill will solicit Anne Brown