

Leonia Shade Tree Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes  
November 8, 2023

**Present:** Christine Healy, Mark Spiegel, Vivian DeMarco, Bill Ziegler (council liaison), John Villareal and Charles Moran (DPW), Vivian Demarco, Soo Woo, Kathi Verbeck

**Absent:** Imanta Bergmanis, Laura-Lindsay Sewell, Julie Ulbrich

The meeting is in compliance with the Open Meetings 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 October 11, 2023 meeting

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

**Council Liaison report:**

- Bill Ziegler reported on the building status of the new Police Department and Municipal Court and electric and elevation actions. Possible 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in the new building Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024. Using permeable pavers. There will be #9 trees planted for replacement which includes October Glory Maples and Black Gums.

**Chairperson report:**

- John and Christine and assistant to town engineer walked the new tree pits and good quality soil for the new tree pits noted.
- Broad and Boro Place had a Chinese Elm. It was determined that it was necessary to remove the tree as major roots had to be removed for the ADA sidewalk which would unweight the tree.
- No updates to date regarding changing the packet that goes out to homeowners who are doing construction. We discussed requiring the homeowner/architect to take measures to protect the trees, and the plans should include any tree that has a caliper of 8" and over.
- We need a process of documenting the demise of the trees during construction – periodic assessments during construction. Tabled until December meeting.

**Commissioners' Reports:**

- Dunkin Donuts on Broad Avenue does still want a tree – the space needs to be evaluated and discussed with the property owner.
- 130 Vreeland – Pin Oak tree with vertical trunk defect in right-of-way. Homeowner would like to have tree expert evaluation with Charles and STC.
- 311 Glenwood – Kathi notes in decline. Asking Charles to evaluate tree who mentions possible pollarding in the past.

- 320 Glenwood – Kathi notes Norway Maple with some possible fungal growth. Asking Charles to evaluate for possible removal.

#### **Walk-About for District 6 for 2023:**

- Kathi and Mark have completed their walk-about.
- Soo completed her walk-about. Sent an Excel spreadsheet – will resend, but requesting access to google docs for uploading inventory.

#### **Fall Planting 2023:**

- Cerbo's Nursery will be performing the Fall 2023 planning on 11/27/23. Sites need to be staked. Roughly #25 trees to be planted.

#### **Sidewalk Policy:**

- John and Chuck report that most of the trees at the reported addresses have been evaluated. They have had some issues with tree failures and retaining walls.
- 562 Broad – issues with ginko tree and sidewalk changes.
- 140 Longview – questions regarding sidewalk and home insurance. Pin Oak at site.
- Discussion about a town-wide sidewalk inventory possibly performed by the Property Maintenance team within the Leonia Police Department. Further discussion needs to be had with Chief Scott Tamaney, acting Boro Administrator.

#### **Media and Marketing:**

- Kathi V. reported that she will be stepping down from the STC at the end of 2023. Great thanks shared with Kathi for all her great work and volunteering.
- Town calendar -need notes for calendar. Recommended same information as last year with 1. Need for permit to remove trees >8" on private property, and 2. PPP program advertising.
- 2024 recommended further tax mailings
- NIXLE message regarding Private Property Planting still needed.

#### **CEUs – Core:**

- Chuck attended the NJ Shade Tree Federation 98<sup>th</sup> Conference on Oct 26-27, 2023 and received CEUs for this meeting.
- Still need 1-2 STC members to complete CEUs in order to obtain 8 CEUs per year obtained by at least 2 separate members/Boro employees.

#### **New/Old Business:**

- Need volunteer replacements for STC – currently with 1 opening in 2023.
- 116 Gladwin Ave – lantern fly issue. Late in season? John V to check in.

- Change need for new Police/Court building from October Glory to Red Maple – Bill Z will handle this change.
- Soo W. will email Imanta and Christine a list of addresses for Pruning and/or removal from her 2023 walk-about.
- John V notes opportunity for CEU at the Dumont Elk's club on 11/13/23 at 7:30p for Tree Care/Eval. John V. may attend.
- John V. notes that PSEG will be pruning but unsure of dates.
- DPW notes possible tree removals on Cottage Place, 119 Reldyes, and 433 Highwood.

Meeting end: 8:44p

Respectfully submitted: Christine Healy-Sammis.