

## **Leonia Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes for February 13, 2024**

**Present** were Commissioners Christine Healy-Sammis, Imanta Bergmanis, Vivian DeMarco, Mark Spiegel, Arnold Trachtenberg, Ann Brown Sullivan, Sandy Pancrazi, and Laura-Lindsay Sewell. Additionally, present were Diane Scarangella (Council Liaison) and John Villareal (DPW).

**Absent** was Julie Ulbrich.

### **Statement of Compliance with Sunshine Law**

**Public Portion:** Open to comments or questions from Leonia residents (none present)

**Minutes of January 2024** were approved.

**Counsel Liaison Report** presented by Diane Scarangella.

Mayor and Council are presently working on the budget and are predicting 5-10 percent cuts across the board. The council is considering a grant for a pickle ball court at Dudley Allen Park which may or may not involve removal of trees there.

### **Chairperson Report**

Annual Application filing Tree City USA and the Growth Award Report were both submitted on Feb. 13, 2024. This is required for applying for grants.

Tree City USA 5 year forestry plan which was postponed during covid is due in 2025.

Overpeck Area 4 development planning committee will have one representative from Leonia who will be chosen by the county. We should liaison with this person.

### **Discussion on STC reorganization**

**Co-Chairs** will remain as Christine Healy-Sammis and Imanta Bergmanis.

**Treasurer** role will be assigned as needed.

**Secretary** will be a rotating position with each member taking 2 turns.

**Walk-About Chair** will be shared by Ann Brown Sullivan and Sandy Pancrazi.

**Planting Spring/Fall** will be shared by Laura-Lindsay Sewell and Arnold Trachtenberg with guidance from Imanta.

**Marketing Chair** Vivian DeMarco will handle the Private Property Planting letters and work at Leonia Day on May 4th.

**Planning Board Representative** will be shared by Mark and Arnold.

### **2024 Operating and Capital Budget**

Presented by Imanta Bergmanis. Tree plantings estimated at \$500 each allowing for price increases from last year \$350-\$400 price per tree.

### **Private Property Plantings/Spring Planting**

Commissioners should try to get 2 sites for PPP each. If necessary trees may be planted between the curb and the sidewalk.

### **New/Old Business**

There was a discussion about town trees that disturb sidewalks leading to sidewalk replacement or repair by the homeowner. Ways to save these trees from removal. Is it possible for the town to reimburse the homeowner for sidewalk repair? Possibly modifying the sidewalk to give room for the roots, Drew and John will review possible options.

John has 4 holiday trees to be planted somewhere in Leonia. Possible sites suggested were the Leonia Avenue entrance to Wood Park and the American Legion Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM

Minutes submitted by Sandy Pancrazi