

## Leonia Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes for May 8, 2024

7:38 Meeting called to order

Present were Commissioners Christine Healy-Sammis, Imanta Bergmanis, Vivian DeMarco, Mark Spiegel, Arnold Trachtenberg, Ann Brown Sullivan, Sandy Pancrazi , Laura-Lindsay Sewell

**Absent:** Julie Ulbrich, Diane Scarangella, Chuck Moren

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

### **Minutes approved from April 2024 meeting**

**Public Portion:** Brenna Mahoney was present for the Public Portion of the meeting. She expressed her thanks to the STC for their quick help in designating a Landmark Tree at her home on Highwood Avenue. The Silver Maple was adopted as a Landmark Tree by the Mayor and Council on Monday, 5/6/24.

Landmark Trees – discussion of Landmark Trees, and how moving forward STC needs to come up with a plan for their maintenance. Possibly have an arborist assess them once per year?

**Counsel Liaison Report** – Diane Scarangella was out of town for this meeting

**Chairperson Report:** Christine and Imanta presented the Commission with Mayor Bill Ziegler's and their own ideas for changes to the ordinance, as well as ideas from other towns and what their ordinances are.

We discussed in depth a tiered fee structure for taking down trees, modeled on Princeton, New Jersey. We also discussed tree replacement.

STC voted on the new fee structure:

- We will drop the minimum caliper to 6 inches, based on the State model
- \$650 fee for 8-12-inch caliper
- \$850 fee for 12-18-inch caliper
- \$1200 fee for 18-24-inch caliper
- \$1750 fee for 24-30-inch caliper
- \$2300 fee for 30-36-inch caliper
- \$3300 fee for 36+ inches

Mayor Ziegler also asked for a “wishlist” for the ordinance for the future. We decided to email about this and then possibly create a subcommittee, if not fruitful.

Imanta informed us of an uprooted tree at 192 Broad Avenue. We agreed that the owner should not need a permit to remove the tree.

**Commissioner's Report:** No new reports.

**END OF MEETING**

*Minutes Submitted by Laura-Lindsay Sewell*