

Leonia Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes for July 10, 2024

7:53 Meeting called to order

Present were Commissioners Christine Healy-Sammis, Imanta Bergmanis, Mark Spiegel, Arnold Trachtenberg, Ann Brown Sullivan, Sandy Pancrazi, Diane Scarangella

Also present DPW Supervisor John Villareal

Absent: Laura-Lindsay Sewell, Chuck Moren, Julie Ulbrich, Vivian Demarco,

Statement of Compliance with Sunshine Law

Minutes approved from June 2024 meeting

Public Portion:

Mark S -leaf blowers still in use with gas powered engines in violation of local ordinance

Diane S. police enforcement call police and report location

John V. it's a question of police enforcement of the gas-powered ordinance

Mark S. question of tree trunk on neighbor's property

Counsel Liaison Report – Council approved new fee structure for tree removal. Fees will be based on tree size. Fine at \$2000.00 above permit fee. Council discussing moving to Google meet for future meetings. No change to Ordinance other than fees for removal. Definition of hazardous tree must be a flexible interpretation as defined by Borough Arborists or outside certified expert. Storm water management goes hand in hand with viable tree population.

Chairperson Report: Storm water management 1 for 1 tree replacement. JV will check

Tree Campus USA, Arbor Day tree inventory

Newly planted tree gators being filled 1-2 times per week.

Middle school garden project, Monarch GardenExplore addresses collected at Leonia Day for possible planting sites.

Discussion of operating budget, amounts held in Shade Tree Trust, Quarterly reports.

All plantings completed with use of Shade Tree Trust fund assets.

Possibility of a town wide STC Newsletter to inform residents of STC activities and planting schedules.

Private property plantings, Condos on Grand and Broad Ave. (IB &SSB will explore)

Walk about District 1, hard endpoint Sept/Oct.

Sub-Committee mtg wed. 7/17 on Proposed changes to Tree Ordinance.

END OF MEETING

