

LEONIA SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

Called to order at 7:44

Present were Commissioners Christine Healy-Samis, Arnold Trachtenberg, Sandy Pancrazi, Ann Brown Sullivan, Laura- Lindsey Sewell, Vivian DeMarco and Council Liaison Diane Scarangella were present as well as Charles Moren, (joined meeting at 8:05) town tree expert.

Absent were John Villereal (DPW), Imanta Bergmanis, Mark Spiegel

Statement of Compliance with Sunshine Law

Public Portion: No public attendees

Minutes from August meeting were not approved or presented for approval

Council Liaison Report presented by Diane Scarangella:

- council requested STC identify trees to be preserved on the two Grand Avenue lots being prepared for development.
- Environmental Commission approached by BCA students wanting to do a study of invasive species in High Wood Hills. Looking for assistance and funding (501C3) The students are developing a natural pesticide that is environmentally safe and the EC is planning to give funding.
- Further reports that Kevin Malloy is retiring from the DPW, which raises the question of what certifications and licenses are needed at the DPW, perhaps in regard to a new hire. Christine discussed certifications and licenses with Chuck Moren, who is a NJ licensed tree expert. Do we need to include a statement about the necessity of a tree expert in our new ordinance?

Commissioner Christine Healy asked for a moment of silence in respect for the victims of 9/11.

Old Business:

Discussion of walk about- Arnold and Laura will get together next week to complete their walk about.

Vivian completed her walk about.

Ann and Sandy completed the Grand Avenue from Palisades Park to Fort Lee Road walk about. Sandy delivered her notes to Ann who will input notes into Google Docs, once the document is shared with STC members.

Christine asked Diane if there had been any budget requests, and Council Liaison Diane noted that the budget was needed by the end of September. Christine led a discussion of the PSE&G butchering of trees every five years when they clear trees for lines. Chuck added that in his experience with line clearing, private properties were respected as much as was possible. Christine wanted to check on the Paramus ordinance and it's wording on PSE&G tree clearing. What are the parameters? Do we need to reference PSE&G in our new ordinance?

Christine led a discussion about the Fall private property plantings. She would like everyone on the STC to locate at least two private property locations by the end of October. Additionally, her goal for the 2025 season would be to begin private property plantings in back yards. All agreed that this was a good

initiative. Christine and then Diane will review changes to our ordinance for the October 21st council meeting and perhaps request a five minute presentation for the council.

Christine stressed the importance of members obtaining CEUs in order to keep our standing as a tree city USA. Core training will take place in Atlantic City on October 17 and 18 of this year.

Old Business:

- Discussion of tree planted at 107 Broadway. An email was received from David Braun, Historical Commission, who expressed concerns that the tree placement would interfere with the sign planted at the location (historic explanation and welcome to Leonia sign). Should the tree or the sign be moved? More discussion to come. Imanta will report further on this- TBD.
- Discussion of three trees removed from the property in the golf course area, where the house is being rebuilt. At this point the borough attorney is involved. New tree fees for removal add up to 2,400 dollars.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47.

Minutes submitted by Ann Brown Sullivan