

## LEONIA SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 11, 2024

Called to order at 7:33

**Present:** Commissioners Christine Healy-Samis, Sandy Pancrazi, Ann Brown Sullivan, Laura- Lindsey Sewell, Mark Spiegel, and Council Liaison Diane Scarangella were present as well as Charles Moren, town tree expert.

**Absent was** John Villereal (DPW), Arnold Trachtenberg

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

**Public Portion:** No public attendees

**The Minutes from the November meeting were not approved or presented for approval.**

### **Council Liaison Report presented by Diane Scarangella:**

- MACORE has decided on a theme of diversity for the 2025 Leonia Day celebration in Wood Park. Would this theme work with the proposed arboretum to be planted with a variety of species? It was suggested that the STC contact Sean at the Rec Center in January to discuss.
- Next year who will be chairs of the STC- let Diane know.
- We are on the Mayor and Council agenda for January 16th to present on our proposed amendments.
- Diane reported on a discussion she had with borough attorney Brian, regarding backyard plantings. There seemed to be some concerns regarding the risk that these plantings may pose for the borough.
- Diane had a conversation with Marissa Mesropian who expressed concern over several issues regarding the STC: can we provide externships for LHS students, and a volunteer board will be created on the borough website for short term projects- how could the STC use these volunteers. Please send suggestions to Marissa
- Is there a list or map documenting the three landmark trees that exist in town?
- Marissa expressed concern that there have been no replacement tree fees collected. Where is the money? Christine and Imanta assured Diane that the funds are in the STC account.
- Ann Brown offered to call and discuss all concerns with Marissa, particularly the heritage trees.
- Diane discussed concerns that new homeowners may not know that there is a heritage tree on their property. Should the building department be made aware of their existence?

### **Chairperson's reports:**

Fall plantings were discussed with Chuck. There seemed to be a few outstanding items one on Ames Avenue and one on Allaire. Louis Grandelis wants a tree on his right of way.

Mark Spiegel asked about the new evergreen tree planted in Wood Park. Chuck reported on how it was planted and that it will need ALOT of watering going forward to ensure success.

Landmark tree at 134 Highwood was discussed with Chuck. How do we document the existence of the Landmark trees going forward?

**Christine** stressed the importance of members obtaining CEUs to keep our standing as a tree city USA. She asked each member to submit their number of volunteer hours for the past year. She needs this data for the Tree City USA application.

Christine discussed a grant (\$12,500) that she is applying for that will cover roughly 3-4 years of continuing ed training for the STC.

**Imanta** said that we still need to submit our budget for next year. A discussion followed concerning missing QR codes from the new trees in the park. Chuck thinks that the missing plaques are down at the DPW building. Chuck discussed ideas for new signage and QR code placement.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52.

Minutes submitted by Ann Brown Sullivan