

## Leonia Shade Tree Commission Minutes 01/08/2025

The Meeting was called to order at 7:35.

**Attendees:** Christine Healy, Laura-Lindsay Sewell, Arnold Trachtenberg, Mark Spiegel, Sandy Pancrazi, Ann Sullivan, Diane Scarangella(Council Liaison) and John Villareal (DPW Superintendent)

**Absent:** Imanta Bergmanis, Vivian DeMarco, Chuck Moren

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

**Minutes** from 12/11/2025 were approved contingent on corrections.

### **Public Portion:**

Arnold noted the aggressive tree pruning by an outside tree service in the fall.

Christine suggested photographing the damage and sending it to the company.

A lack of required arborist was discussed.

Arnold will investigate the policy of Paramus Shade Tree commission which seems more successful in controlling the outside company pruning practices.

He will also investigate if a permit was secured for the removal of a large tree at 41 Brook Terrace.

### **Council Liaison Report:**

Diane reported that a temporary budget has been approved by the council.

Arnold was appointed as a full member of the Shade Tree Commission and Julie Ulbrich was appointed as an alternate.

### **Chairperson Report:**

Reorganization: All current officers have agreed to continue in the coming year.

Christine and Imanta: co-chairs

Laura-Lindsay and Arnold: spring and fall planting and private property planting

Ann and Sandy: walk-about District 2

Mark: Planning Board Project

Secretarial duties will be shared by the group.

There is an opening for a marketing chair.

Update on 2024 accomplishments: Tree City, Growth City, Tree Campus USA at Leonia Middle School.

Every 5 years the town must complete a forestry management plan. This is due December 2025.

This can be done by an arborist but Christine felt we could do this ourselves using i-tree tools.

CEUs have been submitted. A grant was secured for future CEUs for \$1250 per year. Rutgers approved course must be submitted by January 15. Other courses can be submitted when enrolling.

### **New Business:**

Mark suggested creating a shared folder for the commissioners with pertinent information making it easier to access information.

Our 3 landmark trees should have QR codes with information about the trees.

Ann volunteered to start the process.

Tree City application will be started. It is the 36th year of our tree city status.

Planning board seeks approval of the planting plan for building variance 180 Ft Lee Rd.

Three trees planted for every tree that is removed was proposed by Christine. The current plan meets this criteria.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55. Minutes submitted by Sandy Pancrazi