

Leonia Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes 01/14/2026

Present: Imanta Bergmanis , Christine Healy-Samis, Diane Scarangella, Mark Spiegel, Sandy Pancrazi, Ann Sullivan and Vivian Demarco

Absent: Maria Andreu, Laura- Lindsey Sewell, Julie Ulbrich Vassallo

Statement of Compliance with the Sunshine Law.

The minutes of the December 10, 2025 meeting were approved.

Public Portion open to the public for comments or questions.
No members of the public were present.

Council Liaison Report:

Diane Scarangella reported that a 3 hour training video on reorganizing websites is available if anyone is interested in signing up for it.

There will be a new person to send announcements and shade tree meeting minutes to for the borough website. webadmin@leonianj.gov

Maria Andreu has been appointed to the shade tree commission.

The suggested budget for Shade Tree Commission for 2026 is \$13000. This will allow the planting of at a maximum 30 trees for the year. Last years budget was 20,000.

The question was posed as to how much was collected in 2026 for tree removal applications and fines.

Chairperson's Report:

We will need to earn CEUs for the coming year. The grant funding courses is still available.

The position of Town Arborist has be eliminated. Charles Moren will still be working for the DWP and will continue taking CEUs.

Positions for the coming year. Christine Healy-Samis and Imanata Bergmanis will remain as co-chairs. The position of secretary will be shared by the group.

Spring and Fall Planting committee is looking for members.
Sandy and Ann will continue as the Walk-about committee.

It was reported that in a recent study Leonia is several degrees cooler than neighboring towns that have less of a tree canopy.

Walk-About:

District 2 Walk-About is complete.

District 3 Walk-About will start in the spring. Ann and Sandy will meet to create a new reporting form.

NJUCF Annual Accomplishment Report:

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For our Tree City designation we are required to spend \$2 per person in town. We are above this mark.

Community Forestry Management Plan:

Christine is working on the Forestry Management Plan which must be submitted soon and approved by the end of 2026.

Leonia Ordinance - updates and revisions status:

Diane Scarangella asked that the commission write out the wording for the changes in the tree ordinance that would replace the current wording of the ordinance.

New/Old Business:

In order to get the student population involved and volunteering for the town we should find projects that could be handled by high school volunteers, for example follow-up on the tree planting to monitor the trees health or help with mailings.

It was reported that 16% of Leonia tree canopy is on town property which makes private property plantings and maintaining private property trees a priority.

We have been one for one on tree planting and tree removals this year.

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Sandy Pancrazi