

LEONIA SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
February 11, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm

**Present:** were Commissioners Christine Healy-Samis, Imanta Bergmanis, Sandy Pancrazi, Ann Brown and Mark Spiegel.

**Absent:** were Julie Ulbrich, Laura-Lindey Sewell, Vivian Demarco, Maria Andreu, John Villereal (DPW).

**Statement of Compliance with Sunshine Law.**

**Meeting minutes of the January 14, 2026** meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

**Public Portion:** Open to comments/questions from Leonia residents. No members of the public were in attendance.

**Council Liaison report:** Diane Scarangella not in attendance, but sent word that Leonian Pin Hong has been hired to help manage the borough website. The STC should send completed minutes to [webadmin@leonia.gov](mailto:webadmin@leonia.gov).

**Chair person's report:**

**Imanta reports:**

- that Councilman Christoph Hesterbrink reported payment of a \$3,200 dollar fine for a tree removed on Christie Street.
- A short discussion regarding Robert Paccico's request to cut down a tree in front of his store on Broad Avenue because of the messy burrs that fall from the tree. Permission is not granted to remove the tree and a letter will be sent to Paccico from the STC stating our decision.
- STC is submitting a request for a \$20,000 budget. Imanta will look at the numbers once again.

**Christine reports:**

- In 2025 we removed 38 trees and planted 38 trees. Nothing to report yet on the District 3 Walk About.
- Spring planting sites? Sandy requested a new tree on her property.
- Tree City USA application was sent to the Mayor for signature.
- Tree Growth Award is in the works.
- Leonia Shade Tree Ordinance is still in the works.
- STC receives a tree log each year from the DPW, stating either "pruned" or "removed".
- \$17.32 per person (resident) was spent on trees in 2025.

**New Business:** Members were encouraged to recruit new volunteers interested in joining the STC.