



Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026 @ 7pm
Borough Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

Participants of the Shade Tree Commission:

Name	Title	Name	Title
Jodi DeMarco	Chairperson	Lisa Shalakho	Commission Member
Michael Mariani	Alternate #1	Diane Korzinski	Commission Member
Lyle Hatch	Alternate #2	Joseph Wojteck	Council Liaison
Albert Ianacone	Commission Member	Kevin Alberta	Licensed Tree Expert
John Manke	Commission Member	Maureen Cook	Secretary / DPW

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by the Annual Schedule of Regular Meetings heretofore adopted and posted on the public Bulletin Board at the Municipal Building, emailed to the Herald News, The Record, The Gazette and all other persons who have requested the mailing of such schedule, and a copy of said schedule has remained on file in the office of the Borough Clerk from and since December 8, 2016.

- Attendees
- Statement of NJ Open Public Meetings Act
- **Open Public Portion (limited to 5 minutes per family)**

Items & updates discussed:

- **Tree Inventory (Count)** – Sterling Consultants, Tim Szczawinski will provide an update in future Shade Tree meeting.
 - The grant agreement status is still pending at this time.
 - As of 1/9/26 – the Application from the NJDEPSAGE has been selected for a **grant award**. We will be contacted by a NJDEP rep for assistance in preparing the formal Grant Agreement – TBD the Grant Agreement (Maureen Cook)
 - On 12/31/25 - Narratives complete & approvals for the Grant are pending by DEP.
- The Annual Accomplishments Report (**AAR 2025 completion**) is being prepared by Jodi DeMarco - working in progress and to be submitted to the DEP before February 19th .



- **Arbor Day Foundation** also due by mid-February – working in progress by John Manke
 - A collaboration of SHTC members collecting data for accomplishments, final numbers of prunings, removals and additional finance numbers to complete these year-end 2025 reports.
- Al Ianacone submitted the order to the Arbor Day Foundation for the x200 White Dogwood Seedlings, which will be available between **4/14/2026 - 5/15/2026**.
- As of the end of January 2026, Downes Tree Service has **completed** all Tree Removals and Pruning requests given to them from 2025. Stumps from the end of December into January will be grinded down in the Spring (when the snow has melted).
- **Yearly Events - mark the dates:** at least 2 or 3 Volunteers at these events is needed.
 - Diane emphasized about the importance of interacting with the community and as a commission, we have to fulfill our obligations. One way is through attending these events:
 - **Saturday, April 18th – Cel-Earth-Bration at the HHS 10-2 pm** – 200 seedling and merch give-a-ways.
 - **Friday, April 24th – Arbor Day:** Columbia Bank sponsors and a tree species
 - Suggestions for locations: St. Anthony's school, the Ambulance Building, and the High School grounds. TBD.
 - **August – 8 Acre Woods Play at the Bandshell (in August TBD) – Diane/Al**
 - The play is written by Estel Colette, former HHS student.
 - Play will be performed in the 8 Acre Woods and also at the Bandshell.
 - Noted, to invite the community and the Boys & Girls Club
 - **Sunday, September 13th – Green Fair Day @ the Library**, alongside the Farmer's Market.
 - **Saturday, September 26th – Hawthorne Day** – 200 seedlings & merch give aways.
 - **Daffodil planting day:** Al Ianacone w/volunteers from Environmental Team & a few Council members to plant bulbs - in November TBD, (planting again at the schools and Municipal building).



- **2026 Calendar:**
 - **Voted & agreed to change the meeting date for May 12th**, instead of May 5th.
 - **Voted & agreed to consistently keep the monthly meetings through the summer months** to keep the communication within the SHTC members; especially for the tree plantings and the planning of events for the remainder of the year.
- **Hawthorne's Road Work Program** – discussed regarding trees that have to come down due to the road program (replacing curbs, repaving streets and or sidewalk improvements.) Jodi & Kevin to discuss further with Boswell Engineering, Chris Casey and DPW Director, Bill Haffler.
 - Suggesting to have an additional clause in the resident's letter about replacing the shade (R.O.W.) trees when trees have to be removed within the program.
- **Fall Planting 2026** – a new list is underway, Maureen/ Kevin
- **Shade Tree process: If you see something, say something.**
 - Call or email the Shade Tree office to report a shade tree (in the R.O.W.) that looks dead/damaged or tree pruning.
 - A work order will be issued. The arborist checks the tree and the work order is provided to Downes Tree Service to take care. If this is an emergency, this is taken care of right away. Otherwise, the work order is handled & processed in our office and could take up to 3-4 weeks.
- **CEU Webinars** – Starting a new year of CEU Webinars in 2026.
 - Core Training & Tree webinars are underway. CEUs are needed yearly.

Our next Shade Tree meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026 at 7 pm at Boro Hall, 2nd Floor Conference room.** Questions or concerns for the Shade Tree Commission, please call the office at 973-427-5555 Ext. 218 or email the Hawthorne Shade Tree at hawthorneshadetree@hawthornenj.org.

Thank you –

Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission Secretary