



Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, April 7th, 2026 @ 7pm
Borough Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

Participants of the Shade Tree Commission:

Name	Title	Name	Title
Jodi DeMarco	Chairperson	Michael Mariani	Alternate #1
Albert Ianacone	Commission Member	Lyle Hatch	Alternate #2
John Manke	Commission Member	Joseph Wojtecki	Council Liaison
Lisa Shalakhov	Commission Member	Kevin Alberta	Licensed Tree Expert
Diane Korzinski	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 to discuss & updates:

- **Asplungh / PSE&G** - tree pruning is underway in town.
 - On Monday, 3/23 – another meeting with Asplungh took place at Boro Hall. Kevin, Jodi and Maureen attended; along with the Mayor and Administration.
 - Tree cutting issues. Cutting more than the Asplungh crew should be cutting of the tree. The Mayor stopped the crew from cutting / pruning the trees in the wires for a week. Asplungh will be inspecting the trees that were already cut.
 - Several residents and properties had emailed or called about the trees that were cut and a couple had to be removed.
 - A 2nd request was made to Downes to clean up at the Wagaraw Rd. trees limbs taken away and to have the Stumps grinded down.
 - Jodi, Kevin and DPW along with Asplungh met on February 20th to discuss their style of pruning and how the Shade Tree would like to protect our town trees. – **Jodi and Kevin**
 - A Nixle went out saying that Asplungh is in town cutting Boro trees – on 3/16/26.



- **Tree Inventory (Count) – Any New Updates** - Maureen
 - Ted Szczawinski from Sterling Consultants – Forestry Inventory update.
 - **On 2/6 /26-** The NJDEP SAGE emailed our Administrator Vinnie Curoso, Ted and Maureen saying that **HSHTC was awarded the \$20K grant for the Forestry Inventory and the CFMP Development additional support.**
 - **Esri ArcGIS Software to use for the Inventory:** DPW confirmed they use this software for the Asset Management Water, Sewer and Storm Water already, which is a plus.
 - Ask Laurie Foley for the Resolution for the March 4th meeting – **Yes, received.**
 - **Ted & Ray Slaman from Sterling Consultants gave us an overview and what to expect for the Tree Inventory reporting to come. 2 Year Program, but the inventory should take only 3-6 months to complete, focusing on street trees in the Right of Way.**
 - There’s an APP ArcGIS Program to Update, Edit or View. Residents can see the tree and property. SHTC tree training
 - They won’t leave the tree if there’s an issue with the tree or hazardous; if defective tree, and the tree would have to come down, police could be called.
 - Specific to Hawthorne: addressing where trees are needed.
 - Inventory working within NJ SAGE
 - Does a tablet need to be bought for this? - **Not necessarily, but Shade Tree could budget for tablet(s), this would be helpful.**
 - New data to the inventory, will only build on the property (site).
 - Boro’s data in this system. Data will always be within the software, log and information. All photos and notes will be entered in the system by Sterling Consultants.
 - Connection between SHTC and community and administration to complete is needed for the town.
- The **Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission's 2025 Annual Accomplishment Report (AAR) was completed** and submitted to the DEP on Friday, Feb. 13th – **Completed.**



- **Arbor Day Foundation Application - 34 Years as Tree City**, was **completed** and submitted on Saturday, February 14th – Thank you John Manke for completing this application.
- Al Ianacone submitted the order to the Arbor Day Foundation for the **White Dogwood Seedlings**, which will be available between 4/14/2026-5/15/2026.
 - **Update:** Maureen called Arbor Foundation, the seedlings will be **mailed out 4/13, it takes 3 days for delivery – we'll have the seedlings for Cel-Earth-Bration on 4/18.**
- **Yearly Events to mark the dates: at least 2 or 3 Volunteers for these events and interaction with the community:**
 - **Saturday, April 18th – Cel-Earth-Bration** at the HHS 10-2 pm – 200 Dogwood seedling and merch give-a-ways. **Boxes in the Boro Hall has merchandise to have Shade Tree members to get for giving away on 4/18.**
 - **Friday, April 24th – Arbor Day:** Jodi and Angela from Columbia Bank (sponsoring Arbor Day & donating a tree to the town): John Manke will be the point of contact for this event.
 - A list of tree species was given. **Shade Tree decided on a Cherry Tree to plant at the HHS on Parmelee Ave.**
 - **August – 8 Acrea Woods Play at the Bandshell (TBD) – Diane/Al**
 - Former HHS student, Estel Colette, wrote the play
 - To be performed at the Bandshell
 - Noted, invite the community and the Boys & Girls Club
 - **Sunday, September 13th – Green Fair Day @ the Library,** with the Environmental Team (alongside the Farmer's Market)
 - **Saturday, September 26th – Hawthorne Day** – 200 seedlings and merch give aways.
 - **Daffodil planting day: Al Ianacone w/volunteers from Environmental Team** to plant bulbs in November (TBD). Plantings at schools and Municipal Building.
 - **A tree will be planted in honor of Bernice Sinning,** likely near the 911 memorial or the High School – this is be planted in the Fall.
- **Fall Planting (pre-meetings) – a new list is underway, Maureen/ Kevin – 30 Tree Locations 3/27.**
- **CEU Webinars** – Sign up for CEU Webinars in 2026. Core Training and Webinars.



- **Road Work Program** - Meet with Boswell Engineering, Chris Casey about replacing any trees that have to be removed when the Road Program (sidewalk assessment or curb replacement) occurs. 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.
 - Jodi met with Boswell, Chris Casey and the DPW Director, Bill Haffler; along with about this Road Work Program.
 - Thank you for coming to a decision to add a clause in the resident's letter informing them about the trees:
 - ***When roadwork or construction projects require the removal of trees in our community, please note that this is done only when necessary for safety and infrastructure improvements. However, the Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission is committed to preserving the beauty and environmental health of our neighborhoods. Any trees which must be taken down will be replaced during our next annual planting project with a new tree in the same location. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to maintain sage roads and a thriving tree canopy for everyone in the Borough of Hawthorne.***
- Liberty Tree Project for 250th Anniversary celebration in Hawthorne Borough. Jodi gave us some information about this project – involving a 30-40 ft. Liberty Elm Tree. The cost, about \$4,000 with the town splitting the cost with Shade Tree. The 250th anniversary with a plaque and a copy of the Declaration of Independence. The group also considered planting cherry trees and other flowering species for the community involvement. (Suggestions: Scarlet Fire Dogwood, Red Dogwood Tree)
- Right Tree Right Place Program with PSEG for a Fall Tree Planting donated by and with the assistance of PSEG. - Jodi
- Any other new issues to be discussed at the meeting.

2026 Our next Shade Tree meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 12th 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