



Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 6th, 2026 @ 7pm
Borough Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

Participants of the Shade Tree Commission:

Name	Title	Name	Title
Diane Korzinski	Chairperson	Joseph Wojtecki	Council Liaison
Jodi DeMarco	Vice Chairperson	Kevin Alberta	Licensed Tree Expert
Albert Ianacone	Commission Member	Maureen Cook	Secretary / DPW
John Manke	Commission Member		
Lisa Shalakho	Commission Member		

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 discussed:

- **Welcomed new Shade Tree Commission members: Mike Mariani (Alternate #1) and Lyle Hatch (Alternate #2).**
 - **Diane Korzinski stepped down from Chairperson and Jodi DeMarco has taken over as the Chairperson.**
- **2025 Fall Planting Update – Kevin / Maureen**
 - Updated list from SCJ Lawncare (requested the updated list from SCJ)
 - 160 in trees were planted – completed. Additional trees for specific locations: Saucer magnolia (Magnolia & Soulangeana); Yellow Bird Magnolia (Magnolia x brooklynensis); Green Giant Arborvitaes. Trees planted by the Utter Ave well in Rhodes Park and the (3) Red Bud trees were planted by SCL Lawncare.
 - There will be a re-order for Emerald Green Arborvitaes to be planted at the Library in the Spring. The Green Giant Arborvitaes were planted in a different location.



- Post tree planting & Shade Tree items to address & suggestions in 2026:
 - Sidewalks – The town to work with a contractor/mason for a base price for residents to redo sidewalks in town when lifted by roots.
 - If the contractor hits or damages a sewer line, sprinkler line or curblineline – to have repairs or replacements in the contract.
- **Tree Inventory (Count)** – Ted Szczawinski from Sterling Update – on going.
 - Narratives complete / Approvals for the Grant is pending by DEP as of 12/31/25.
- **2025 CEU Webinars** – SHTC CEU Webinars credits have been met for the year – thank you for those who took the webinars. Starting a new year of CEU Webinars in 2026.
- **Core training courses thru Tree University is needed to be taken first for the CEU webinars can count.**
- The SHTC is preparing for the AAR 2025 completion – Jodi DeMarco will take this over & submit in February – NJ Federation of Forestry.
- SHTC is also preparing the Arbor Day Foundation – John Manke working on this completion.
 - Annual Accomplishments were announced (see below and add to the website).
 - School accomplishments from Al Iannacone (see below and to add to the website).

Our next Shade Tree meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 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



Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission 2025 Annual Accomplishments:

- Redesign of Shade Tree's webpage for the Hawthorne Municipal Website.
- Stream lined and created phone app to help commissioners submit potential tree planting sites directly to town.
- Initiated application for Forestry Plan and Grant with Ted Szczawinski and Ray Slaman of Sterling for Inventory (in process). The Commission and Shade Tree Secretary Maureen Cook were instrumental get this application in. The Commission thanks former Commissioner Dria Lobosco for introducing Sterling to the Boro.
- Saturday, April 26th Shade tree commission had their annual tree seedling giveaway at Hawthorne's Cel-Earth-Bration hosted by the Hawthorne Environmental Commission at Hawthorne High School.
- The borough gave 400 seedlings away to residents and students. Commissioner Al Ianacone ordered trees from the Arbor Day Foundation.
- Planted Tree co-sponsored with Columbia Bank at Washington School on Arbor Day with children and also planted an additional tree on the school property to celebrate Earth Day.
- Arborist Kevin Alberta was instrumental in getting the trees in the ground.
- Created a Shade Tree Commission survey designed to get feedback from residents about the trees and the Commissions work in town.
- Had a Shade Tree Commission table at Hawthorne's Green Fair at the Hawthorne Library in August —piloting our new Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission Survey with residents to help support shade tree community engagement with residents.
- Commission hosted booth at 16th Annual Hawthorne Day on Saturday, September 27 from 12-4 and rolled out survey on a large scale with great success. Created metric chart measuring Shade tree Commission's success in community. Commissioner John Menke put together Hawthorne's Shade Tree Canopy analysis which exceeds the recommended 30% guideline from data gathered in November.
- Initiated and budgeted for creation and production of play as a way to engage residents with nature and trees. The play entitled "Eight Acre Woods" is written and will be cast and ready to be performed at Hawthorne Band Shell in August to be followed by one performance at Roosevelt Elementary School in September.



- Multiple grants and planting of daffodils and trees by Commissioner Ianacone who has taken the Shade Tree Commissions work into the grammar schools.
- Hosted pre tree planting meeting with residents in late October/early November scheduled to receive trees to address concerns and questions.
- Successfully completed fall planting of 160 trees in November and December with new contractor SJC lawn care. They did an excellent job.



2025 Accomplishments -

Including: Arbor Day Foundation of daffodil plantings, Passaic County City Green Dig In!, School Education and tree saplings

Spring: We obtained 400 tree saplings from the Arbor Day Foundation:

Qty. 100 Eastern Redbuds

100 Red Maples

100 White Dogwoods

100 Red Fir White Trees

These trees were distributed during Arbor Day Week to both the general public and to several public school (children) programs.

Summer: Al and the SHTC members listed potential new tree locations for the Fall Planting.

Also, we submitted an application to Passaic County City Green Dig In! Tree. Bulb and Native Perennial Grant Program for 500 daffodil bulbs and 3 native redbud tree saplings, which was approved in September.

Fall: 500 daffodil bulbs and 3 Redbud tree saplings were picked up from the City Green Dig In!

The daffodil bulbs were planted at the Municipal Building, Library and park entrance by the Shade Tree Commission, with the help of the Boy Scouts and the Hawthorne Green Team members.

The 3 Red Bud trees were planted by the Hawthorne Public Works Dept. at the Goffle Park entrance.

Note: (picture attached from the one of many Thank You notes from a 4th grade student at Jefferson School. (for Mr. Al Ianacone who is a dedicated Shade Tree Member educating the students in our schools).