



Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, March 3rd, 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:

- **Tree Inventory (Count)** – 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 grant for \$5K.**
 - **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.
 - **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. On 12/31/25 - Narratives complete & approvals for the Grant are pending by DEP.
- The **Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission's 2025 Annual Accomplishment Report (AAR) was completed** and submitted to the DEP on Friday, Feb. 13th. Thank you, Jodi for preparing and processing this report.
- **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.
- 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 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 seedling and merch give-aways.**
 - **Friday, April 24th – Arbor Day:** Jodi and Angela from Columbia Bank (sponsoring Arbor Day & donating a tree to the town):
 - A list of tree species was provided
 - John Manke will be the point of contact for this day
 - Discussion where to plant: St. Anthony’s school; HHS on Parmelee Ave. side or on Ryerson Way (TBD)
 - **August – 8 Acre Woods Play at the Bandshell (TBD) – Diane/Al**
 - Former HHS student, Estel Colette, wrote the play
 - To be performed in the 8 Acre Woods and 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.
- **2026 Calendar:**
 - Please note the May meeting in on the second Tuesday, May 12th.
 - July & August meetings are still on the first Tuesday of the month.
- **Fall Planting (pre-meetings) – a new list is underway, Maureen/ Kevin**
- **CEU Webinars** – Starting a new year of 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.***
- Asplungh / PSE&G - tree pruning is underway in town. 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**
- Liberty Tree Project for 250th Anniversary celebration in Hawthorne Borough. - **Jodi**
- Right Tree Right Place Program with PSEG for a Fall Tree Planting donated by and with the assistance of PSEG. - **Jodi**

2026 Our next Shade Tree meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 7th, 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