

Meeting Minutes – March 2026

The Shade Tree Management Board held its regular meeting at 8:15 AM on **March 19, 2026**. It was a hybrid meeting in the Borough’s Committee Room and a Zoom link.

Call to Order by Chairman Gene Cracovia

Statement in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting of the Shade Tree Management Board was provided by transmitting a copy of the meeting notice to the Madison Eagle, Morris County Daily Record, posting a copy on the bulletin board at the main entrance of Borough Hall, and filing a copy in the Office of the Clerk, all on January 15th, 2026. Copies of said notice were made available to the general public.

Attendance

NAME	PRESENT	ROLE		NAME	PRESENT	ROLE
Cracovia, Gene	x	Chair		Duffy, Robert	x	DPW
Honohan, Judy	x	Vice Chair		Wolowicz, Rich	x	Arborist
Bruce, Nancy	x	Member		Crescas, Colette	x	MEC
Monaghan, Brian		Member		Schorr, Chris	x	Member
Bartley, Kate	x	Member		Adrienne Foote	x	FMST
Limbach, George	x	Member		Fontaine, Elizabeth		Secretary
Kirsten Wallenstein	x	Member		Tom Haralampoudis	x	Council Liaison

January Minutes Approval: Motion Approved

- Motion to approve the February minutes
- Motion Approved

Madison Tree Status – Borough Trees

- DPW Report
 - Resident Concerns – 8 Lee Avenue, 24 Cedar Avenue, 106 Central Avenue
 - Budget – Still working off the temporary budget
 - Tree maintenance contract for 2026 to be awarded to Honor Tree
 - Florham Park appears to have violated Madison’s Tree Ordinance by removing trees on Madison property along the new Rt 24 access road. Rich Wolowicz is preparing the report to submit to Madison administration for further action.

- 2026 Spring Planting
 - Judy
 - Has submitted orders for 90 Trees – 30 of them to be in a smaller caliper range – delivery by Apr 15; planting from then to 15 May.
 - Tree care packets delivered to resident when the tree marking takes place
 - Smaller tree varieties – trying this year to determine whether trees in containers have a better survival/health rate vs balled & burlapped
 - Has entered George's identified sites on a spreadsheet
 - George
 - Has visited and evaluated 280 sites for planting, will mark 90 locations. Because of scheduling constraints, the planting letter which is usually mailed to residents when street trees are to be planted will be delivered at time of marking
 - Possibility (for fall plantings) that in locations where the street site is too small for a tree to do well, a letter will be left for residents offering to plant a tree in their front yard. Madison will take care of it for 2 years then resident's own it
 - **REQUEST:** Identify planting sites on rosenet for residents to review

TCC

- 11 Garfield/203 Green Avenue (wooded property behind church on the corner)
 - Forested property – 53 trees potentially to be removed – developer submitted an alternative arborist report which gave a reason for why each tree should be removed; future arborist reports should clearly state whether an additional assessment is needed and that the Madison Arborist has the final say
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Rich – follow-up report for April meeting

Growth Awards / Annual Reports

- Annual Reports – submitted to Council and NJ
- April 13th – Rich presentation at Council meeting to review 2025 Arborist Report

Drew Forest

- Environmental study of Drew Forest required by Green Acres Grant – due in April

Parks Advisory

- Melissa Honohan is the Council Liaison
- Tom Haralampoudis to request the Mayor and Council consider the creation of a Parks position to formalize the maintenance and development of Madison Parks. These park lands represent the primary source of canopied green space that is publicly owned and administered

Arbor Day – Saturday, May 2nd

- King's Rd School principal to coordinate with other schools to organize elementary schools' presentation of music and poetry
- 41st Tree City USA award
- 19th Tree City Growth Award – awaiting Arbor Day review
- FMST has purchased 60 red oak seedlings to give away to residents on Friday, April 24th, in front of Hartley Dodge between 12 and 4 [Chris and Liz Madara from 12 – 2; Nancy and Kirsten from 2-4]. Any remaining seedlings will be available at the Arbor Day program.

Beech Tree Disease Update

- **ACTION ITEM: STMB Board – assign responsibility for**
 - Send article to community in **May**
 - Put on flyer on *rosenet*

Gibbons Park – Chris Nash to remove 2 pines damaged by recent storms

Education Programs / CORE Training

- Required for Shade Tree Board members
- Always encouraged for additional attendees

Grants

- MEC grant
 - Have applied for a grant where if you remove invasive shrub, residents can get a replacement of native species
 - Removing Invasive Trees – discuss grant options
- FMST grant
 - 2027 Community Forestry Management 5-Year Plan – Adrienne and Chris attended Zoom webinar of grant for CFM grant - Identifying best practices and creating timeline for filing the grant in 2027 (when Madison's expires)

STMB 2026 Programs

- Website update in tandem with other communities
 - **ACTION ITEM: Adrienne (Chris) & Jean Epiphan & Kristen Ace**
 - Working on creating a shared document folder with other municipalities – Jean Epiphan is working on an outline of the contents
- Sustainable Madison
 - Grant to schools to plant 53 trees
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Reach out to local schools to help engage in planting trees
 - **Brian**– to research bringing kids to MRC for review of the trees
- Tree Cluster Plantings in Cole Park
 - Installed Nov 8th, 2025 – requires successional updates / maintenance
 - **ACTION ITEM: Brian** - to track information / sizes & work on video script
 - *Shade Tree Board to create plan for status updates*

Partner Organizations

- MEC
 - Orders for the Great Swamp native plant sale due April 1st
 - April 11/12th Service Day - Invasive clearing at MRC Forest
 - Shrub Swap-Out – Removing barberry & encouraging replacements with natives
 - April 14th – ‘Plant This, Not That’ – at Madison Library
 - April 25th - Repair Café
 - Townwide Yard Sale May 2nd
- Sustainable – No action items

US 250th Anniversary

Shade Tree Board recommends planting the Salem white oak seedling, now about 4 feet tall, in Cole Park, where it can be monitored and nurtured along with the 3 oak trees (Lisa Ellis to arrange photo op with cup scouts)

Submitted by Chris Schorr