

SHADE TREE COMMISSION
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 2023, 7:00 PM

The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey have been satisfied by the inclusion of the date, time, and place of this regular meeting in the annual schedule and notice of regular meetings of this Commission. Such annual schedule and notice of regular meetings is posted at Borough Hall, was mailed to the Record and Star Ledger and was filed with the Borough Clerk of Demarest on February 21, 2023.

The meeting was opened by Chairperson Linda Cetta at 7:00pm.

Present: Linda Cetta, Maureen Neville, Ronnie Friedman, Faye Sloan, Alan Epstein, Mary Lynne Hamilton, Joyce Lustbader

Absent: Edwin Herning

Approval of minutes for January 5, 2023. Maureen Neville 2nd Joyce Lustbader

Old Business: Blanche Avenue settled violation. Brook Way violation was served by Property Maintenance for illegally removing a non-permitted tree. Discussion, "Do the tree companies get a violation?" Answer: "The homeowner receives the violation, not the tree company." A court appearance will be required for Brook Way. All tree companies and homeowner's that file for a tree permit receives a copy of §1084-20. The determination for tree removal is by Shade Tree Commission and if need be an arborist will be asked to do a field report. Mitigation is required when a tree is taken down illegally. All violation money collected is deposited into the Shade Tree Trust account which is used for replanting and or taking down Borough Trees. The electronic board is still down. Facebook page is on hold. Spring 2023 planting, 30 trees. DPW vs. hiring a contractor to plant. Planting in the Cemetery for the fall and will discuss with the Borough Historian.

New Business: Arbor Day is April 22, 2023. Seedlings, refreshments, and coloring books will be handed out. 2023 budget was submitted. Water bucket was included in the budget. Tree USA and Assessment for the NJ Forestry was submitted.

Special presentation by Council Person Fox speaks to the Commission regarding mitigation, permits and what determines the buffer area. Tree removal and mitigation for construction sites are approved by the Construction Official as per

§1084-20 or the designee. Council Person Fox clarifies the use of the trust account and will confirm with the Borough Attorney. Budget was discussed regarding general fund and the trust account.

Motion to adjourn: Alan Epstein 2nd Ronnie Friedman. The meeting closed at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Campbell Shade Tree Secretary