

**SHADE TREE COMMISSION
Demarest Borough Hall
7:00PM**

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

May 2, 2024

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Linda Cetta opened the meeting at 7:02 pm with the following announcement: PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING: 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 and notice of regular meeting was posted at Borough Hall, was mailed to The Star Ledger and The Record and was filed with the Borough Clerk of the Borough of Demarest.

1. Roll Call: Present: LC, MN, RF, FS Council Liaison AC, Absent: EH, NG, DG

2. Approval of minutes: Motion to approve March 7, 2024, Minutes, 1st RF, 2nd FS

3. Old Business: Council approved Ray Slaman for Borough Arborist April 9, 2024, in which he conducted an inventory of the trees at the Duck Pond. Results, 3 trees need to be removed and 17 need to be pruned. Budget was discussed regarding expenditures. Removal without permits clarification of ordinance, violations vs. summons. Shade Tree Chair to be notified of all violations and summons. Special speaker Ray Slaman expressed his concern about a discrepancy between the ST Ordinance and the current tree removal application. Future plan to redo the ordinance to reflect to correct the table calculation and update the ordinance on the website. Continued discussion to revamp the cemetery to remove the old bushes and replace them with deer resistant bushes.

4. New Business: Spring planting, opt in Program was a success with 4 of the 25 trees planted to replace the 4 Ash Trees that were removed. A tree of dedication was planted in remembrance of Alan Epstein. Tree planting will start phase 2 for the year in the Fall. ST to purchase 2 ½ caliper trees due to the Deer eating the 1 ½ caliper trees. Arbor day had 30 participants. Violations issued for removing a tree without permits are 63 Central Ave and 15 Evergreen Pl. Purchase orders must be submitted to finance for all purchases. Budget was introduced at the M & C meeting final approval is in June. Subcommittee for tree mitigation on construction and residential sites. Special Speaker Ray Slaman defines the difference between major trees and minor trees.

5. Open to the Public: No one from the public were present

6. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting by FS, 2nd by RF. The meeting closed at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted, Lee Campbell Shade Tree Secretary