

Borough of Demarest
Shade Tree Commission
Official Minutes

September 11, 2025

Chair, Linda Cetta read the 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 in the annual schedule and notice of regular meetings is 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 on January 15, 2025. The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

Roll Call, present. Chair Linda Cetta, Vice Chair Dimitri Gatanas, Member Norman NG, Via Zoom, Member Maureen Neville, Council Liaison Adam Collins. Absent Members Faye Sloan and Kathleen Kobylarz

A motion to approve the minutes for July 10, 2025, was made by Dimitri Gatanas and seconded by Norman NG, all were in favor.

Old Business: Kathleen Kobylarz was recognized as the new Alternate #1 for the Shade Tree Commission. The operating budget, Trust Fund and expenditure were discussed in the meeting. The Operating budget was initially \$55,000.00, to date the total remaining is \$24,049.00. Chair Cetta explains most of the money was spent on removal. The Trust Account currently has \$19,290.00, Council Liaison Collins, reported that \$7,000.00 went into the Trust from mitigation, \$5,500.00 received from 31 Wellwood Rd. and \$1,500.00 was received by 64 Highland Ave. Council Liaison Collins asked the Members how the budget was being spent? Chair Cetta replies, "The opt In Program for Fall planting which will be in December, the rest of the money will be spent on pruning and removal." Vice Chair Gatanas asked, "What if there is money left over in the operating budget at the end of the year?" Chair Cetta replied, "There will not be, Shade tree will spend it all." Chair Cetta shared that there is a mitigation plan for Stelfox. Cemetery rehabilitation is under way. Chair Cetta confirms to the members that 64, 4ft. Skip Laurels were purchased at Victorias Nursery. The cost was \$5,985.00 and recognized the DPW for all their hard work. Chair Cetta questioned why there was a hold on the cemetery plantings due to mark outs. The Commission discussed that mark outs were necessary to determine where the underground utilities are for digging and safety purposes. Chair Cetta discussed that she has been requesting for 3 years that the Borough hire one contractor to do maintenance and removal. Vice Chair Gatanas suggested Chair Cetta get in touch with the Borough to follow up on ST's request.

New Business: Chair Cetta informed the members that a meeting with the Mayor occurred to discuss planting trees at the Borough Hall. Vice Chair Gatanas reminded the members that he submitted a plan with the species of trees to be planted. Chair, Cetta interjected and stated, "There will be no trees planted in the back of Borough Hall due to the police camera's." Vice chair, Gatanas adds the plan he presented would not obstruct the views of camera's." Chair Cetta stated, "She only received approval to plant in the front of the building." Passing of the new Ordinance was

discussed. Planting on Stelfox was discussed. Member Norman NG asked if the mitigation comes out of the ST Budget and was told no. Vice Chair Gatanas asks "if the Borough is exempt from mitigations?" Council Liaison Collins replied, "the mitigation is taking place for the residents on Stelfox St." Vice Chair Gatanas wanted to express his happiness over the mitigation for Stelfox St. Chair Cetta added Forest Rd. will be receiving 5-6 trees as part of the Stelfox mitigation plan. "Council Liaison remarked that he doesn't think Forest Rd. Was approved for mitigation but will check with the Borough Administrator and report back to ST." Borough Events: Demarest Day, The ST Commission will reserve a table if there are Members that can Volunteer their time. Okotberfest there will be no participation from ST. Vice Chair Gatanas circled back to the opt in program and requested information where the opt in program was advertised? Council Liaison Collins replied, "The electronic board, the website, and the Mayor's newsletter." Council Liaison Collins share with the Commission a suggestion of a tree to be planted at the 911 Memorial.

Open to the public: No one from the public attended.

A motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm was made by Member Norman NG, second by Vice Chair Gatanas, all were in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Campbell

Shade Tree Commission Secretary