

**Shade Tree Commission
Demarest Borough Hall
7:00PM**

MINUTES

RE-ORG MEETING

January 22, 2026

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Linda Cetta opened the meeting at 7:00 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 Record and was filed with the Borough Clerk of the Borough of Demarest on January 9, 2026.

1. **Roll Call:** Present, Linda Cetta, Dimitri Gatanas, Kathy Kobylarz, Norman NG, Ted Alverantas, Faye Sloan via Facetime. Council Liaison Adam Collins. Absent, Maureen Neville
2. **Minutes:** Motion to accept minutes from December 11, 2025, was made by Norman NG second Kathy Kobylarz
3. **Election of Chair:** Dimitri Gatanas nominated Linda Cetta for Chair, 2nd by Norman NG, all were in favor
4. **Election of Vice Chair:** Linda Cetta nominated Dimitri Gatanas, 2nd by Norman NG, all were in favor.
5. **Old Business:** Linda Cetta reported the budget from 2025 has 0 remaining in it. ST is operating on a temporary budget for the first quarter. The trust has \$13, 125.00. Council Liaison Collon explains the budget process. Linda Cetta added that if tree removal needs to be completed, it will have to come out of the Trust. Dimitri Gatanas asks if there is a limitation on what can be spent out of the trust. Linda Cetta responded, removal, pruning, and planting. An update for Stelfox St. planting was given by Linda Cetta. She reports there was a delay in planting till spring. 7 trees will be planted for the mitigation project. Council Liaison stated that 10 will be planted all together. Linda Cetta added she will call the nursery in February to order the trees. Dimitri Gatanas requested an invoice for the trees that are ordered for the Stelfox project. Opt in program for the Fall was delayed, planting will resume in the Spring with the help of DPW. Linda will present the end-of-year report to the Mayor and Council and requested that any other members have anything to add to contact her. The Commission reported that they have not received any updates for contractual services for tree removal/pruning. 5 Year plan will need to be redone this year to receive Grants. Shade Tree will continue with plans of planting throughout the Borough Right of Ways and public areas including parks and schools. The Commission plans to continue to work with the Garden Club. Changes in the Bi-Laws were address, Linda Cetta will contact the Borough Administrator, Julie Falkenstern with the changes that were discussed. Dimitri Gatanas made motion on the Bi-Law changes second by Linda Cetta, all were in favor.

6. **New Business:** 2026 Meeting Dates, A motion to have the meeting on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers was made by Linda Cetta second by Norman NG, all were in favor. Manasquan planting project will be researched by Norman NG as requested by Linda Cetta. Dimitri Gatanas mentioned residents might want to participate in the buy a tree program if they could plant them in park areas with dedication plaques. Norman NG shared Manasquan started their buy a tree program by advertising on FB. Norman NG offered to start a FB page for the Shade Tree Commission and have events, accomplishments, and upcoming programs advertised on the page. He shared his preliminary ideas with the Commission. Shae Tree will be participating in Borough events and come up with games and giveaways related to trees. Dimitri Gatanas passed information on a new vendor that has seedlings of different species for Arbor Day that are larger than the ones received in the past. The Commission welcomed Ted Alverantas as a new member.
7. **Open to the Public:** No one was present from the public.
8. **Motion to adjourn** was made by Linda Cetta, second Ted Alverantas, all were in favor. Prior to closing, Faye Sloan thanked the members for covering her in her absence.

Respectfully Submitted, Lee Campbell Shade Tree Commission Secretary