

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

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

July 09, 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, Norman NG, Ted Alverontas, Maureen Neville, Kathy Kobylarz, Council Liaison Adam Collins, also in attendance was Borough Administrator, Julie Falkenster and Borough Arborist, Ray Slaman. Absent, Dimitri Gatanas and Faye Sloan
2. **Minutes:** Request to amend # 5 in the minutes for a typo removing Linda Cetta is closed to the public was approved. Motion to accept minutes from June 11, 2026. was made by Maureen Neville, second Norman NG.
3. **Open To The Public:** Motion to open to the public was made by Ted Alverontas, second by Kathy Kobylarz. Borough Admin. Julie Falkenster along with Borough Arborist Ray Slaman gave detailed reports on the tree damage from the storm on July 4, 2026, around the Borough. A full list of addresses will be submitted to the Shade Tree Commission. Julie Falkenster notified the Commission that there was a local State of Emergency declared by Mayor Berstein to help aid DPW to ensure the roads were clear of any hazardous trees and branches. Maureen Neville questioned if the town was able to receive any funds from the state to pay for expenses of emergency tree removals. Julie Falkenster replied no due to it being a local State of Emergency and not declared by the State. The Borough was notified that funds would not be reimbursed from the State for the February and July storms. Julie Falkenster also shared the number of phone calls received due to residents stating they have asked for trees to be taken down in the Borough Right of Way that were not addressed. She also shared that most of the trees were healthy trees that came down in the storm. Ray Slaman was requested to inspect 2 trees by the Gazebo. Upon inspection, he noted the trees should be removed which is on the current list for removals. The report was shared with Mayor Bernstein, Julie Falkenster, Linda Cetta and Shade Tree Secretary, Lee Campbell.
4. **Old Business:** Budgets were discussed; Operating Budget \$39,800.44 and the Trust Account has \$19,920.00. Norman NG reported regarding planting trees at CRS and has the location where the trees will be planted. Linda Cetta suggested that the trees should be ordered in September. Norman NG met with Councilwoman Carmeli to discuss changes to the current ordinance which included, 1) New construction will be required to

plant in the Borough Right of Way, 2) No planting live fences in the Borough Right of Way. Julie Falkenstern added there is already an ordinance in place from Zoning that does not permit live fences in the Borough Right of Way. Norman NG added there are residents that already have them. Norman NG expressed his concern that 592 Piermont Rd. has planted in the ROW. Ray Slaman confirmed the trees were planted on private property, not in the Borough ROW. Julie Falkenstern requested additional addresses so the Borough can address the issues. Councilman Adam Collins discussed the ordinance procedure. The formula for ROW Inspections was explained by Ray Slaman. ST Secretary Lee Campbell provided copies of the new tree removal list consisting of 16 addresses. Linda Cetta explains for future inspections done by Shade Tree, the Members will need to tag the trees for removal/pruning with yellow ribbon so they will be easily identified when requesting quotes.

5. **New Business:** A copy of the Shared Service Agreement dated 1-8-2024 was provided to the ST Members for a discussion on what the County's responsibility for when it comes to removal of trees. Julie Falkenstern explained the criteria for removals. Confirmation that the County will not give reimbursement for a tree on a County Road if the Borough removes the tree. Purchasing procedures were explained by Julie Falkenstern. Discussions of beautifying the Duck Pond and to have a Landscape Architect present a plan. Maureen Neville responded with concerns about the cost and whether this can be a Borough Project so Shade Tree can take care of the trees that need removal/pruning. A request by Linda Cetta to the Members to please notice any trees that look dead and note the address. Adam Collins thanked the ST Members, DPW, Police Dept. and Fire Dept. for all the hard work and communication during the July 4th storm. Recognition to Lee Campbell and her Husband Stephen for coming through town to check on residents and tree damage on her day off was given by Julie Falkenstern.
6. Motion to adjourn was made by Maureen Neville and second by Ted Alevronts

Respectfully Submitted, Lee Campbell Shade Tree Commission Secretary