Shade Tree Commission
Demarest Borough Hall
7:00PM

MINUTES	**REGULAR MEETING**	**October 8 , 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 23, 2026.

1. **Roll Call:** Present**,** Linda Cetta, Maureen Neville, Kathy Kobylarz, Norman NG, and Faye Sloan. **Absent:** Dimitri Gatanas, Ted Alverontas, and Council Liaison, Adam Collins
2. **Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes from September 9, 2026, was made by Norman NG, second by Kathy Kobylarz, all were in favor.
3. **Old Business:** Budget, trust account $22,245.00 regular budget $940.44. Linda Cetta explains that there were hazardous trees that were removed and the money was used from the regular budget decreasing the amount from the last meeting. The amount in the trust can be used for hazardous tree removals and pruning. She would like to keep $10,000.00 in the trust and not go below. If there is an emergency and the cost is over $940.44, then it will be paid for through the trust. Linda Cetta thanks Faye Sloan for all the work she put into County Road School. Shade Tree is donating 3 trees to County Road School. DPW cannot plant on school property, Faye Sloan was able to have the Maintenance Dept. from CRS plant the trees. The location of the plantings is set. Fees for the NJSTF Conference can only be paid out of the operating budget, not the trust. The trust can only be used for removing, planting, and maintenance for trees. The changes to the ordinance were discussed. Linda Cetta would like to present the answers to Julie Falkenstern's questions to the Mayor and Council at a meeting. Linda Cetta explains that they can request the ordinance change to be on the agenda for a Mayor and Council meeting and some, if not all the members of ST can attend the meeting. Maureen Neville suggested that the builder put up a bond for $1,500.00 per tree in the ROW. Norman NG added that he thinks $1,500.00 is still a low amount to bond the tree(s). Faye Sloan raised the question regarding whether the change to the ordinance is on all construction. Norman NG explains that it would be harder for the ordinance to pass if residents who are just adding an addition to their home were included in the change. He then explained the ordinance change is not to target builders, it is for new construction. Norman NG made a motion to present the ordinance change on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, second by Faye Sloan, all were in favor. Linda Cetta will contact Julie

Falkenstern to see if it can be added to the agenda. Mr. Ray Cywinski entered the meeting. Maureen Neville asked if he was there to attend the ST Meeting or the Nature Center Meeting? Mr. Cywinski was there for the Nature Center Meeting. Driving arrangements for the NJSTF Conference were discussed. Linda Cetta explained the removal list and informed the other members that ST is requesting quotes for pruning trees since ST hasn't been able to prune due to the emergencies. There are 4 or 5 trees that will be pruned next. The removal list Linda Cetta and Secretary Lee Campbell have are different, and they will work on the list, so they match each other. Kathy Kobylarz questioned if 89 Van Horn St. is being removed, Linda Cetta confirmed it is on the list for the next round of removals. Kathy Kobylarz offered to tag the tree.

4. **New Business:** New opt in form was created adding email addresses to the form and removing species from the form. Linda Cetta and Kathy Kobylarz went to Victoria's to order the new trees for the Fall Opt - in and County Road School. Dates and times were discussed for the seminar with Ray Slaman. Maureen Neville and Linda Cetta are working on the budget. Members of the Shade Tree Commission received information on trees from Frank DeCarlo of DeCarlo Tree Masters. ST will not be participating in Demarest Day because Linda Cetta wasn't available. Ray Slaman is helping ST go out for a grant for the 5-year plan. If the grant is rewarded, ST will pay $5,000.00 for the 5-year plan and will get reimbursed. Maureen Neville asked about the new emergency trust, Linda explains The League of Women Voters hosted a Candidate Form and during it Mayor Bernstein said he was looking into having a separate trust for emergencies, using some of the money from the sale of the bank building to create an emergency trust account to help with emergency situations. Faye Sloan asked a question; the recording was inaudible. ST had further discussions on the sale and new construction of the bank building.
5. A motion to open to the public was made by Linda Cetta, second by Maureen Neville there were no public attendees.
6. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Linda Cetta second by Maureen Neville. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Lee Campbell Shade Tree Commission Secretary