



Verona Shade Tree Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2026 at 5 p.m. in person and via Internet Conferencing

		Action Required
1.	Call to order at 5:05 pm a) Open Public Meetings Act Statement: Read b) Roll Call: Carol Thomas (Chair) yes Bob Prout (Member) absent Ira Jacobs (Member) yes Val Ryan (Member) yes Catherine Tamasik (Member) yes Diane Convoy (Alternate) yes Kathy Rutherford (Alternate) absent Councilwoman Christine McGrath (Council Representative) yes Quorum Established: Yes	
2.	Public Comment Period: None	
3.	Correspondence: None	
4	Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2026 meeting MOTION to Approve: Second: APPROVAL: All Members Present Abstentions: none	approved minutes will be sent to Township Clerk
5	<u>Budget:</u> At this morning's meeting with DPW and Township Manager (Ms. Thomas and Ms. Tamasik attending), the budget was confirmed as follows: \$135,000 in operating budget which includes \$101000 for arborist, and \$75,000 proposed in capital budget + \$25,000 for new trees	

6	<u>New and Unfinished Business.</u> a. Ms. Thomas reviewed the discussion held this morning with the Township Manager, the Assistant Manager and Mr. Molinaro, head of DPW. See separate minutes of this meeting attached to today's Agenda. In addition, Mr. Molinaro stated that DPW will begin working immediately on the trees listed on the new tree survey as "dead" (25) or "very poor" (27). b. CFMP draft is in final form. Ms. Tamasik will edit for grammar, punctuation, etc. This document is the STC's master plan. c. NCS Grant Proposal. We will resubmit indicating the preferred planting sites; Ms. Thomas has a list from DPW with possible planting sites in five sections of the Township. d. ESRO software. The map includes 'dots' but not addresses. Someone needs to coordinate the addresses with the dots. e. Schools trees project. New trees arriving April 13. NJ Tree Foundation is planting. Can DPW handle the watering? There are 44 trees f. Arbor Day. April 25. So far, 131 people have signed up for trees. All members agree that we should have a presence. Mr. Jacobs and Ms. Conboy volunteered to staff a table. Sustainable Verona will have a table. Councilwoman McGrath suggested we provide a QR code that links to the form for requesting a new tree at your home. At the April 13 meeting, the STC will finalize details for tabling materials, signage, activities. Etc. g. Ms. Thomas asked if any members wanted to serve as liaisons to the VEC and Sustainable Verona. It was agreed that the members will do this on a rotating basis. h. Ms. Thomas provided links (see Agenda) to various resources concerning recommended street/ urban trees. We should create a master list. i. Mr. Jacobs volunteered to help with the place markers for the 44 school trees during the week of April 6. j. Members previously received the plans for the Hillcrest Farms development. Discussion, re same noted that there is an abundance of trees and shrubs designated on the plans.	Who will create list for resubmission? Who will do this? Create a subcommittee to prepare list
7	Motion to Adjourn: Jacobs Second: Ryan Adjournment: 6:10 pm	

	Next Meeting:	
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