

Board of Tree Experts Minutes

December 15, 2025

The Board of Tree Experts met on this date at 101 W Veterans Hwy, Jackson, NJ

Those present were:

S. Chisholm, Sr., Chairman
G. Lovallo, Vice Chair
M. Goggin
K. Downes
Joe Greipp (Recording Secretary)
Barry Emens
Rich Wolowicz
Brian McDonald (Commissioner Designee)

DAG:

B. Velzy, DAG

Staff:

Arlene Dietz
Erik Jones

Public:

Debbie Jones

Meeting was called to order at 12:39pm

- I. **Open Public Meeting Act:** Read by Joe Greipp
- II. **Agenda:** A Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mark Goggin seconded by Rich Wolowicz. Motion passed, unanimously.
- III. **Minutes** for November 2025 were reviewed by the board.
A Motion to approve the minutes was made by Barry Emens and seconded by Kevin Downes. Mark Goggin and Rich Wolowicz abstained. The motion passed with abstentions.
Bruce Velzey noted that efforts should be made to approve and file the minutes from the October board meeting.
- IV. **Administrative Report: See attached**
 - A. **Compliance with the Law**
 1. Monthly Stats were reviewed.
- V. **Financial Report:** (Included in packet). The Financial Report was provided to the board which included:
 - A. Revenue
 - B. Expenditure
 - C. Encumbrances

VI. **Compliance Inspectors' Report:** (included with packet) The inspector's report was provided for review. Arlene noted Peter Ellis' reports have been corrected. Erik commented that he is running out of space in his gmail account (15 Gigs). Board discussed new email accounts coming with new website from DEP. Joe Greipp asked about new website help from DEP – whether they can get us cloud storage with DEP email addresses. Erik informed that Dave Garret turned in his iPad and is wondering if he could get trained up on its use. Gary to follow up with Chris Sullo and Nels, who is already using the iPad successfully. A motion was made by Mark to accept the inspectors' report which was seconded by Barry. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. **General Public Comment:** None.

VIII. **Unfinished Business:**

- a. Arlene requested cameras to be used inside the office to help avoid or document problems in the office. Bruce Velzey stated the outdoor camera is no problem, but he will have to verify with his office if cameras at work stations are acceptable. Discussion ensued, several have concerns for reasonable privacy in the workplace.
- b. Bruce brought up approval of October minutes again. The October meeting was recorded first by A.I., then streamlined by staff. Steve Chisholm reported that he thought Shari was going to make final changes to bring to board for voting.
- c. Bruce reminded board that distributing documents or other content via email is acceptable to entire board, but discussion must not occur via email, as this would violate the open public meeting act.

IX. **New Business**

- a. Steve reported discussion of 22nd Century about Linda's position. Working on getting applicants. Carol Maynard (ex. Assistant to Steve Matis) must approve in addition to Steve. Mark asks if a background in arboriculture is necessary, general consensus is no. Mark advocates for de-prioritizing a background in arboriculture.
- b. Board expressed gratitude for Erik's willingness to assist in the office.
- c. Arlene would like to work in the office on Fridays with the office being closed to office hours temporarily so she can work uninterrupted. Board agrees with appreciation. This will start in the new year. No motion needed.
- d. Bruce asks for board meeting dates for 2026.

Barry departs at 1:25 pm.

X. **Review of Applications**

- A. A motion was made by M. Goggin, seconded by S. Chisholm. to certify the exam grades of the Licensed Tree Care Operators for the applicants that have attained passing grades and will have their names read into the December 16th, 2025,

minutes. The motion passed unanimously. The following names were read into the record by Joe Greipp.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>
Carlos Caceres Mejia	LTCO	Princeton, NJ
Wilson Ramirez	LTCO	Woodbury, NJ
Nelson Sinchi Marcatoma	LTCO	North Plainfield, NJ
Wilmer Castor Vera	LTCO	Dover, NJ
Fredi Acabal Mendez	LTCO	Morristown, NJ

- B. A motion to approve 5 Business Registrations was made by Steve C., seconded by Rich. Motion passed, unanimously.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>
All Fair Landscaping	LTCO	Princeton, NJ
Trujillo Tree Service LLC	LTCO	Woodbury, NJ
King Landscaping & Tree Service	LTCO	North Plainfield, NJ
Chucky's Chainsaw Tree Service	LTCO	Dover, NJ
King of the Kings Tree Service	LTCO	Morristown, NJ

- C. Waiver Requests:

- a. Richard Aiello: Motion made by Steve to accept, seconded by Mark. Motion passed unanimously
- b. Thomas Norman: Motion made by Mark to accept, seconded by Rich. Motion passed unanimously
- c. James Norman: Motion made by Mark to accept, seconded by Steve. Motion passed unanimously

- D. Reciprocity

- i. **James Hofer's** application for LTCO reciprocity was reviewed by the committee and a Motion was made by Joe, 2nd by Mark Goggin to approve his request for reciprocity. The motion was passed unanimously.
- ii. **John Anderson's** application for reciprocity was reviewed by the committee and a Motion was made by Joe, 2nd by Rich to approve his request for reciprocity. The motion was passed unanimously.

- XI. **Other:** Meeting dates for 2026 were discussed and a variety of different times and locations were formulated to better accommodate board members' schedules. The following schedule was created:

January 20th 12:30 pm in Jackson
 February- no meeting
 working group to assist new staff
 March 17th 12:30 pm in Jackson
 April 21st 10:30 am in Jackson
 May 19th 2:00 pm in Edison

June 16th 10:30 am in Jackson
July 21st 12:30 pm in Jackson
August no meeting
September 15th 12:30 pm in Jackson
October 20th 2:00 pm in Edison
November 17th 12:30 pm in Jackson
December 15th 10:30 am in Jackson

Brian McDonald will post meeting dates for the board. There is a cost associated with this and it will be referred to Steve Matis for proper accounting.

Bruce brought up our ability to raise fees to keep up with inflation. He researched this and believes it has to be done through the DEP rule making process. This would not require legislative approval.

Bruce also discussed the differences between Civil penalties and Civil Administrative penalties.

Brian McDonald recommended the board vote on the proposed 2026 dates. Joe moved the dates, times, and locations listed above and Rich seconded them. Motion passed unanimously.

- XII. **General Public Comments:** None
- XIII. **Closed Session:** None
- XIV. **Adjournment:** Mark motioned to adjourn, Rich seconded. Motion passed unanimously at 2:16pm

The next meeting will be January 20th, at 12:30 pm in Jackson