

Board of Tree Experts Minutes

July 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
R. Wolowicz (Zoom)
B. Emens
J. Greipp
S. Spero
M. Goggin
K. Downes (Zoom)
T. Wyckoff (Commissioner Designee)

DAG:

B. Velzy, DAG (Zoom)
C. McLaughlin

Staff:

B. Brash, Program Manager
P. Aufiero, Recording Secretary
A. Dietz
L. Hayes
L. Herrera

Compliance Inspectors

E. Jones
N. Johnson
J. Cramer

Public in Attendance

B. Wolf (JCP&L)
D. Jones

Meeting called to order at 12:31pm

- I. **Open Public Meeting Act:** Read by P. Aufiero.
- II. **Agenda:** Motion to approve Agenda by B. Emens, seconded by G. Lovallo. Motion passed, unanimously.
- III. **Minutes** of April 15, 2025
Motion to approve Minutes of April 15, 2025, with changes, by J. Greipp seconded by B. Emens. T. Wyckoff abstains. Motion passed.
- IV. **Oath of Office**
Shari Spero sworn in as new member of the NJ Board of Tree Experts, oath administered by C. McLaughlin, DAG.
- V. **Administrative Report: See attached**
 - A. **Compliance with the Law**
 1. Monthly Stats (included with packet)

VI. Financial Report: (Included in packet)

- A. Revenue
- B. Expenditures
- C. Encumbrances

Discussion:

Inspector Report: (included with packet).

Discussion: A summary of the Inspectors submitted inspections and NOV's by violation was provided to the board from Jan 2025 to June 30, 2025. Nels Johnson found four new dump sites, Jeff Cramer issued several NOVs in Plainfield for unregistered companies doing storm cleanup after flash flood.

VII. Public Comment: None.

VIII. Unfinished Business:

- a. Compliance Inspectors Dave Garrett and Nels Johnson have been using the tablets. Chris Sullo has been very helpful and responsive with instruction.
- b. Business Registration Compliance Results: some businesses that had LTCO that had expired had a second LTCO that is current. Some asked if they could retake the exam to become current. After discussion the Board will allow those who have responded to retake the exam and there will be no action taken within the 60 days allowed to acquire a license. NOVs will be issued to those that have not responded.

The proposed LTCO Spanish Prep course scheduled for August 6, 2025 should help bring more companies into compliance.

IX. New Business

- A. A motion to certify the LTCO Exams from April 2025 and will be read into the minutes of July 15, 2025 was made by M. Goggin, seconded by S. Spero. Motion passed, unanimously.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Michael Siervo	Saddle River, NJ
Patrick Dougherty	Egg Harbor Twp, NJ
Jessica Fazzio	Vineland, NJ

- B. A motion to approve 3 Business Registrations, was made by J. Greipp, seconded by Emens. Motion passed, unanimously.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>
Lewis Tree Service	LTCO	W. Henrietta, NY
Seaview Landscaping	LTCO	Cape May Court House, NJ
A Cut Above Tree Service	LTCO	Laurel Springs, NJ

C. Waiver Requests:

- 1. Adam Murphy: Documentation for review and consideration not provided.

2. Anthony Meloni: Motion by G. Lovallo, seconded by M. Goggin to deny due to missing the deadline for submitting a waiver request. Motion passed, unanimously.
- D. Jarrod Frazier Tree Service, an unregistered, unlicensed company. A phone call was received by A. Dietz stating that this company is giving estimates, taking down payments for the job and then never showing up to do the work. No evidence was provided.
- E. Reciprocity: Motion to approve Franklin Sosa Velasquez for reciprocity as a Licensed Tree Care Operator (LTCO) by J. Greipp, seconded by T. Wyckoff. Motion passed, unanimously.
- F. Proposed website revisions: staff recommended some changes to the proposed website, and they were forwarded.
- G. MS4 letter regarding additional paragraph citing the "Tree Experts and Tree Care Operator Act" was reviewed and will be sent to Bruce.
A motion was made to accept the MS4 letter with any changes from B. Velzy, by G. Lovallo, seconded by B. Emens. Motion was approved, unanimously, with changes.

X. Public Comment: None.

XI. Other:

- A. West Windsor Township was topping trees. J. Cramer gave Municipal Brochure to the township.
- B. LTE Field Exam was held on July 9, 2025. 17 candidates were scheduled, 15 showed up. Everything went smoothly.
- C. FOPM signed the payment plan and has already made 2 payments.
- D. Can the NJBTE license cards have a photo ID? This issue was discussed with the logistics and benefits of implementing this policy determining it may not be worth the expense and effort unless we determine there was a concerted attempt at fraud.

XII. Motion to adjourn by J. Greipp, seconded by M. Goggin. Motion passed unanimously at 2:19pm.