

Board of Tree Experts Minutes

November 18, 2025

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

Those present were:

Steve Chisholm, Sr., Chairman
Gary Lovallo, Vice Chair
Kevin Downes (Zoom)
Joe Greipp
Shari Spero
Barry Emens
Todd Wycoff (Commissioner Designee)

DAG:

B. Velzy, DAG

Staff:

Arlene Dietz
Linda Herrera
Erik Jones

Public:

Robert Wolfe

Meeting was called to order at 12:41 pm by Vice chair Gary Lovallo

I. **Open Public Meeting Act:** Read by Bruce Velzy.

II. **Agenda:**

A Motion to approve the agenda was made by Joe Greipp seconded by Shari Spero. Motion passed, unanimously.

III. **Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes for the October 2025 meeting were quickly reviewed by the board. This was the first time a recording of the meeting was taken and later processed by artificial intelligence- in the absence of a recording secretary. A discussion of its merits and detriments ensued. Because substantial changes are to be made, a subcommittee led by Shari Spero was formed to refine the minutes for approval at our next meeting. This subcommittee will also provide an opinion as to whether it might be worth it to pay the \$100 per year fee to use this technology in the future. Gary will send the existing minutes in a Word document to Shari. Motion was made by Gary to table the minutes until next meeting and Barry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Certification of Exams- November 2025

A motion was made by Joe Greipp to approve the passing grades for the following two LTCOs:

Eduardo Franco Chacon of Gloucester City, NJ
Yamin Sanchez of Newton, NJ

And two LTEs:

Philip Clark of Hamilton, NJ
Adrian Pritchard of West Milford, NJ

Shari seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

V. Business Registrations

Shari made a motion to approve the following business registrations:

Redwood Consulting Arborists	LTE	Warminster, PA
New Jersey Tree Professional LLC	LTCO	Union, NJ
Cedrus Tree Service and Home Improvement	LTCO	Monmouth Junction, NJ
Clear Plains Tree Service	LTCO	Gloucester City, NJ
Antonios Tree Service	LTCO	Newton, NJ
Premier Tree Service	LTCO	Gloucester City, NJ

Barry seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

VI. LTCO Reciprocity:

Joe Greipp made a motion to approve James Mulkey and Gary seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. LTE Reciprocity:

None

VIII. Waiver requests

Keith Donovan- Kevin motioned to approve, Barry seconded. Motion carried unanimously

Robert Venezia- Gary motioned to approve, Joe seconded. Motion carried unanimously

Frank DeCarlo- Discussion ensued. No good cause found. Waiver denied

IX. Administrative Report:

Renewal Status report
None provided

X. Financial Report:

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

The Board expressed frustrations with the reporting provided by the state. Based on information provided, no decisions could be made. Members of the personnel committee expressed concern over a report from Carol Maynard that showed Arlene Dietz was severely over her budgeted hours for the year (budgeted for 1,000 hrs, yet has been working +/- 35hrs per week), but also recognized we are no longer paying for B. Brash, P. Aufiero, or L. Hayes. Personnel committee will revisit budgeted hours to present to Steve to forward to C. Maynard to revise.

Board agreed new program manager should use Bill Brash's format to present financial reports until or unless they can find a better way to present it. No vote on reports was made. Steve reported Amy Cramer expressed an interest in the program manager position and her C.V. was distributed electronically. She would not be able to start before the middle of January.

Robert Wolfe excused himself from the zoom call at 1:51 pm.

Joe made a motion to alter agenda to move closed session to the end of the meeting to accommodate Erik's schedule. Gary seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

XI. Comments from the General Public (3 mins each)

No public comments

XII. Inspector Report:

Report was included with document package. Peter Ellis' reports are being reformatted for office use.

XIII. Old Business:

Shari presented the letter she worked on to accompany board's MS4 document. The board appreciated her efforts and approved it for distribution to case managers. Shari will send to Steve for his signature.

Bruce informed the board a regulatory change would be required to raise the cost of licenses and registrations. The costs are listed specifically in the regulations and a provision to raise them does not exist. The board is concerned that these prices are outdated and the board is facing budgetary shortfalls. Bruce recommends we start this process by means of a letter to the DEP sooner than later. Shari recommended building in some annual cost increase to the regulations, possibly tied to the Consumer Price Index. Gary recommended removing specific pricing in the regulations entirely and using some language allowing for board's discretion.

Gary moved to go into closed session and Shari seconded the motion which passed unanimously at 2:17 pm.

XIV. Closed session:

Gary motioned to come out of closed session and Barry seconded the motion which passed unanimously and 2:25 pm.

Bruce summarized the discussion; the business brought forth did not justify a closed session. It pertained to a complaint filed by the wife of a licensed arborist who was accosted by an unlicensed arborist working in Port Norris NJ. The state police were called and we believe a police report is being sent to her. Arlene spoke with her and requested a copy of the report. The office staff stated the accused is well known to the office and has several outstanding NVOS's. Inspector Nels Johnson knows the company well and has written them up several times. Linda reported the company owner openly disregards the board's attempts to bring him into compliance. The board instructed Arlene to contact DAG MacLaughlin to start the AONOCAPA process.

XV. New Business:

No new business

XVI. A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Shari, seconded by Gary. Motion passed unanimously at 2:34pm.

The next meeting will be December 16th at 12:30 pm at the Board's office in Jackson.