

BOARD OF TREE EXPERTS

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING March 17, 2026

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

Those present were:

Steve Chisholm, Chair
Gary Lovallo, Vice Chair
Joe Greipp (Zoom)
Shari Spero
Barry Emens (Zoom)
Rich Wolowicz (Zoom)
Todd Wyckoff (Zoom)

DAG:

Bruce Velzy, DAG (Zoom)
Candace McLaughlin
DAG (Zoom)

Staff:

Amy Cramer, Project Manager
Arlene Dietz
Debra Jones

Public:

Erik Jones

Meeting was called to order at 12:41 PM by Vice Chair Gary Lovallo

- 1. The Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) was read by S. Chisholm**
- 2. Agenda:** A motion was made to approve the agenda by R. Wolowicz, seconded by B. Emens, motion was passed unanimously.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of January 2026 Meeting.** A motion was made by S. Spero to approve the January 2026 minutes, seconded by B. Emens, motion was passed unanimously
- 4. Approval Minutes of October 21, 2025 Meeting.** Discussion of footnotes included in the minutes which resulted in changes to the First and Third footnotes. The sentence “This information is inaccurate” was removed and footnote #3, pertaining to the ring camera was removed completely. A motion was made by R. Wolowicz, seconded by J. Greipp, motion was passed unanimously.
- 5. Administrative Report:** Review of the monthly “Compliance with the Law” numbers. Website- The state is still making changes and corrections to the website and adding the meeting minutes. G. Lovallo obtained a link to the website draft and sent it to the office.

Amy will send the link to the Board members. The office staff will be able to make updates and some changes to the site.

Cites- A list of the citations connected to the Notices of Violation is being compiled by A. Cramer for quick reference and use in the field as well as for staff use. C. McLaughlin will review the list for accuracy from a legal standpoint and she will use this for the list she will be compiling.

6. **Financial Report:** Review of the Revenues, Expenditures and Encumbrances submitted by the State and the new formats for office use compiled by A. Cramer were explained. The January Wells Fargo bank statement was also reviewed.

Phone calls will be implemented to increase payment of delinquent fines. C. McLaughlin will work on verbiage for use when contacting violators.

B. Velzy will be working on using the tort fund for the expenses attached to the Amanda Glenn litigation

S. Matis will be closing the Wells Fargo account soon. ITC Telecom and Fortis Consulting are not on the NJ Start Program.

7. **Compliance Inspectors Report-** January & February were slow.

G. Lovallo reported that Kevin Thompson was interested in being an inspector and is willing to go to any part of the State (Gloucester, Camden & Salem). Discussion of penalties, payments and the implementation of the new legislative changes. Question of whether the established inspectors' hours will be increased. Possibly start K. Thompson in July of the new fiscal year. Discussion of penalties and the budget. Discussion of municipalities that do not follow the law. We will work toward increasing hours for the current inspectors and getting Kevin Thompson on board. We are being careful with the budget.

8. **General Public Comment: NONE**

9. **Unfinished Business-** The Board office is in need of file cabinets but have not been able find affordable cabinets. Todd Wyckoff recommended that we use the warehouse for the State. He will let us know who to contact.

10. **New Business-** a Copy of the New Legislation was given and it will be discussed further in the Closed Session.

Discussion of a monthly insurance policy issued to one of the businesses. The staff will try and get further information.

Shari will continue to send out letters re MS4 to townships/municipalities.

Ronny Delgado – submitted a bid designating himself as an LTE. The bid sent to us by the City of Englewood. Send NVOS to Ronny Delgado.

11. **Review of Applications:**

Business Registration – **Our Tree Service, LLC, Pt. Pleasant, NJ**, motion to approve by Shari Spero, seconded by B. Emens, motion passed unanimously.

Exams Passed- **Nick Freglette, Adam Fair, Denilson Saavedra, Jonathan Mangandi**, motion to approve by G. Lovallo, seconded by Shari Spero, motion passed unanimously.

Waiver – **Raymond Hartmann** – waiver denied due to insufficient information to support the disability and the fact that his company is working regularly.

Renewal – **Thomas Karkas** – applicant must retake the exam due to the fact that he has never transferred from CTE to LTE and has made no attempt to renew the license for 8 years.

12. **Other:**

Discussion about the Microsoft service being cut off due to non-payment and the fact that we cannot access our database or website.

Discussion of the Complaint submitted by Stacy Phelps regarding Tropigala Tree Service. We will develop a response letter for those who wish to be informed about any enforcement actions taken.

C. McLaughlin advised not to give too much information regarding possible fines or penalties.

1. Dr. Raul Cabrera from Rutgers University is bilingual and has done significant translation in horticulture and has worked extensively with the Texas chapter and now lives in Salem County. His wife is a PhD in horticulture and is also bilingual. We got some complaints at the Garden State Tree Conference about the one Spanish exam. They felt the translation was difficult to understand and recommended that someone who was familiar with arboriculture review our tests. Dr. Cabrera offered to do this for us and it also fits with being an outreach person with the university. He also offered to help create content in Spanish on the website and to review all of our documents that go out to renew, business and license initial applications and, in conversation with Christina Best from the Chapter, she also offered to assist with this project. This would be an opportunity to create additional Spanish tests based on our English tests.

2. Last month I received a letter from Zamayra Rivera asking specific questions about her license renewal. I felt it was more appropriate for the Board to respond to her. I was just wondering if she did receive a response.

Motion to go into Closed Session by G. Lovallo, seconded by B. Emens, motion passed unanimously.