

Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes February 9, 2026

Commission Member Brian Kennedy called the regular meeting to order at 8:30AM in the Council Meeting Room of the Borough Office at 14 Crafton Street. The pledge of allegiance was recited by all.

Attending were Commission Members Tim Morey, Tyler Upham, Borough Manager Louis Rachiele, Administrative Assistant Tiffany Thomas, Parks & Rec worker Brett Mengee, and Mr. George Loughery from 15 King St.

Commission Member Tyler Upham made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Tim Morey and carried.

Public Comments on Agenda Items – None

Fall Planting Plan Match Report – Commission Member Brian Kennedy went over handout of the Matching Contribution – Fall 2024 Tree Planting.

Spring Planting – Commission Member Brian Kennedy stated Spring will be a busy time for the Shade Tree Commission. The plan is to plant 20 trees, and most will be located on East Avenue.

Tree Inventory Work Agreement – Commission Member Brian Kennedy advised Shade Tree Commission that Ethan West and Alan Reed cannot commit any more time to this project. Brian Kennedy stated that himself and Parks & Rec worker Brett Mengee can fill in the gap until another person or entity can be put in place to do this work. This inventory needs kept up to be in compliance with the DCNR Canopy Grant. Commission Member Tim Morey questioned availability of Brian Kennedy and Brett Mengee as they are also employees of the Borough. Tim Morey wondered if this was the best route or if it would be best to utilize a student or contract this work out.

DCNR Canopy Grant – Tree inventory is required for this grant. The Commission is required to use native species and get approval if a native tree can't be used. Commission Member Brian Kennedy submitted the January report as required and with no issues. All trees were pruned and removed per grant guidelines and paid for by grant. Next is to plant trees in the Spring. Looking at planting another 20 trees in which 16 would fill in voids.

Hazard Tree Requests – One request for a Sugar Maple to be pruned at 11 Austin Street. Wellsboro Electric Company is requesting tree be pruned due to line clearing. Commission Member Brian Kennedy also brought up the possibility of a reimbursement to George Loughery for the removal of the Hickory tree on his property. The motion was made by Tyler Upham and seconded by Tim Morey for the \$350.00 reimbursement to Mr. Loughery after submission of tree removal receipt.

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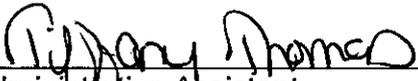
Other – Commission Member Brian Kennedy has submitted 2025 Tree Work & Expenses report and application to be considered a Tree City again.

Borough Manager Louis Rachiele has asked for a clear path as to what Shade Tree is responsible for. This will aide the Borough budgeting. Recommended putting town into zones and designating Shade Tree to said zones.

Commission Member Brian Kennedy brough up final topic of meeting which is the member recommendation for the empty position on Shade Tree Commission. Members reviewed letters from interested candidates Brett Mengee and Erin Leonard. Brian Kennedy did recuse himself from a vote unless needed due to his working with Brett Mengee through the Borough. Commission Members Tyler Upham and Tim Morey, after reviewing letters, recommended Brett Mengee as the candidate to fill the empty position. Commission Member Tim Morey made the motion and Commission Member Tyler Upham seconded the motion. The recommendation will be given to Borough Council for final approval.

Adjourn – Commission Member Brian Kenney made a motion to adjourn at 9:20AM. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Tyler Upham. The next Shade Tree Commission meeting is on March 9, 2026 @ 8:30AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by


Administrative Assistant