



TOWN OF DOVER SHADE TREE COMMISSION

March 13, 2025, 7:00PM

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA



1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE** [Sunshine Law Compliance]

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting of the Town of Dover Shade Tree Commission was sent to the Daily Record and The Citizen newspapers on December 19, 2024 for publication; such notice was posted in the municipal building and was filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk. Formal action may be taken at this Meeting.

4. **ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE**

Daniella Mendez re-appointment as a Regular member. 5-year term to expire 12/31/2029

5. **ROLL CALL** [alphabetical order]

Commissioner Antonio Acosta
Commissioner Craig Adams [Alt. 2] - Chair
Commissioner Maribel Garland
Commissioner Daniella Mendez
Commissioner Kim Philips [Alt. 1]
Commissioner Susan Savoy
Commissioner Travis Savoy – Vice Chair

Non-voting:

Council Member Veronica Velez, Council Liaison
Public Works Superintendent Jeff Guevara
Robin Kline, Commission Secretary

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** [Requires Motion; Second and Roll Call]

February 13, 2025 Reorganization and Regular Meeting

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public Comments are an opportunity for individuals to comment on any matter or concern. Upon being recognized by the presiding officer, please state your name and address for the record before speaking. Public Comments do not follow a question-and-answer format; however, a member of the Shade Tree Commission may offer a brief response when it is helpful to do so.

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

2025 Operating Budget – Status. Commissioner Acosta

1st Quarter 2025 Goals & Objectives

🌳 **Commissioner Antonio Acosta:**

1. Design “welcoming signage” for Hurd Park.

🌳 **Commissioner Kim Philips:**

1. Dover School District “Tree Appreciation” Art Project celebrating Arbor Day.
2. Dover High School Hydroponic Program
3. Girl Scout Troop Gold Award - Tree ID Project.

🌳 **Commissioner Travis Savoy:**

1. Contact other shade tree commissions for networking and “best practices” opportunities.

9. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Finalize Subcommittee Assignments

Subcommittee Reports

Grants Subcommittee

- 1) Leafing Out Education Grant – CY2025 balance is \$3,125.00

Arbor Day Program & Shade Tree Plantings Subcommittee

- 1) Arbor Day Celebration – Date, Time & Place and Planned Activities; Arbor Day Proclamation required
- 2) Replanting two street trees on N. Sussex Street (Chase Bank & Peer's Moving Company)

Public Outreach & Code Enforcement Subcommittee

- 1) Shade Tree Commission Social Media & Webpage
- 2) 135 Munson Avenue [B1706, L24] Re: M. Acevedo's removal of town trees on 50' x 100' lot
- 3) 2 White Street Re: removal of town trees & encroachment on unimproved section of Bowlby Street

10. SITE PLAN FOR REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION

None

11. REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISON AND PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT

Council Member Shade Tree Commission Liaison

Public Works Superintendent Jeff Guevara

- a) Hazardous trees reported
- b) Tree work completed

12. NEW BUSINESS

1) Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance

- Tree Removal Application
- Shade Tree Commission Liaison to Code Enforcement - Role & Responsibility
- Public Outreach

2) Tree Donation Program

13. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting to be held on Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 7:00PM

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SHADE TREE TRAINING & RESOURCES

 New Jersey Urban and Community Forestry –Provides grants, Shade Tree Accreditation, CORE Training
<https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforestry/forest/urbanandcommuity/>

 New Jersey Shade Tree Federation [NJSTF] – No charge online courses visit <https://njstf.teachable.com>

 Tree City USA – Run by the Arbor Day Foundation provides educational materials and programs
<https://arborday.org>

 New Jersey Tree Foundation - Training resources visit www.njtrees.org/resourceseducation



DOVER SHADE TREE COMMISSION

SUBCOMMITTEES

Shade Tree Grants Subcommittee

Member Commissioners: Craig Adams, Kim Philips, _____

This subcommittee applies for, and oversees the administration of grant funding opportunities to further the Shade Tree Commission's mission.

This subcommittee collaborates with Town of Dover municipal departments, the Town's grant writing consultant, and the Dover Public School District in the application and administration of such grants.

Subcommittee members may include individuals from the community-at-large and the school district.

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Arbor Day & Shade Tree Plantings Subcommittee

Member Commissioners: Susan Savoy, Travis Savoy, Kim Philips

An Arbor Day Program is required to be held each year in order to comply with Dover's approved 5-year Community Forestry Management Plan, maintain NJ Urban and Community Forestry accreditation, and qualify for Tree City, USA® designation. Members from the community-at-large and the school district may serve on this subcommittee.

This subcommittee is responsible for the planning and coordinating an annual Arbor Day celebration in the Town of Dover, which among other things, aims to educate the public and students enrolled in the Dover Public School District about the importance of trees benefit to wellness, climate change, energy conservation & flooding.

This subcommittee is also responsible for identifying locations on public lands, public easements and rights-of-way within the Town of Dover where it is desirable and appropriate to plant shade trees, ornamental trees and shrubbery in accordance with the Town of Dover Codes, Chapter 84, *Shade Tree Commission*, and Chapter 236, *Land Use and Development*.

Subcommittee members may include individuals from the community-at-large and the school district.

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Public Outreach & Shade Tree Code Enforcement Subcommittee

Member Commissioners: Kim Philips, _____, _____

This subcommittee administers and approves content posted on the Shade Tree Commission's official webpage and social media pages in accordance with the Shade Tree Commission's Social Media Policy.

This subcommittee also works with the town's Code Enforcement Officer in the enforcement of violations concerning the removal or injury of shade trees on public lands pursuant to the Town of Dover Codes, Chapter 236, *Land Use and Development*, and Chapter 366, *Protection of Trees; Fines* and makes recommendations of fines or penalties to be considered by the Shade Tree Commission.

Subcommittee members may include individuals from the community-at-large and the school district.

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ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025

Meetings of the Town of Dover Shade Tree Commission are held at 7:00PM in the Town Hall Courtroom, 37 N. Sussex Street, Dover NJ on the second Thursday of each month as follows:

~~Thursday, January 9 Reorganization and Regular meetings~~
~~Thursday, February 13~~
~~Thursday, March 13~~
Thursday, April 10
Thursday, May 8
Thursday, June 12
Thursday, July 10
Thursday, August 14
Thursday, September 11
Thursday, October 9
Thursday, November 13 *Goal-setting Workshop meeting at 6:00pm
Thursday, December 11

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2025 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

[From Discussion at the November 2024 Goal-Setting Workshop]

1st Quarter 2025 Goals & Objectives

1. Install welcoming signage in Hurd Park [visitors respect the park's beautiful trees and amenities]
2. Collaborate a "Tree Art" program with the Dover Elementary Schools and/or Dover Free Public Library
3. Collaborate with the new Hydroponics program at Dover High School
4. Merit badge program with local Boy Scout troop as part of Arbor Day activities
5. Partner and network with other shade tree commissions to learn "best-practices" and programs

2nd, 3rd & 4th Quarter Goals & Objectives

6. Apply for Tree Inventory Grant;
7. Collaborate with the Dover College Promise to design a "Walk Hurd Park App;
8. Explore and mark tree planting opportunities along streets, especially street tree plantings along Bassett; Highway from Mill Pond Tower to the Dover Sportsplex;
9. Co-host an Open House with the DPW for Shade Tree community outreach;
10. Educate the public about the new tree preservation and protection ordinance;
11. Canvass door-to-door in neighborhoods distributing the Tree Preservation and Protection Ordinance FAQs