Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2026

Commission Member Scott Nichols 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 Scott Nichols, Brett Mengee, Tim Morey, Borough Manager Louis Rachiele, Administrative Assistant Tiffany Thomas, Mr. George Loughery.

Commission Member Tim Morey made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2026 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Brett Mengee and carried.

Public Comments on Agenda Items – None

TreeKeeper – All trees planted in the spring are entered.

DCNR Canopy Grant – July report submitted. Borough Manager Louis Rachiele questioned what the time frame for the grant was. Commission Member Tim Morey stated it depends on the grant as to what the time frame for funds is. Commission Member Brett Mengee stated with the money the Commission saved with Dincher and Dincher doing tree work the Commission has plenty of extra money and may be able to prune another 20 trees with grant money.

Fall Planting – Commission Member Brett Mengee stated the focus of fall planting will be on East Ave. Commission members reviewed the fall planting paperwork provided. Borough Manager Louis Rachiele questioned how long newly planted trees needed to be watered and Commission Member Brett Mengee stated they should be watered for the first year.

Clearance Pruning – Commission Member Brett Mengee and Wyatt McConnell have been clearing walkways and signs around the Borough.

Hazard Tree Requests –

- 20 Riberolle St – Request to remove a large sugar maple. After discussion it was approved by Commission.
- 18 West Ave – Email comment from Commission Member Brian Kennedy stated this property was purchased by Ben Chesko. They would like to replace the sidewalk but the tree has upheaved the sidewalk; they want to know how to proceed. The tree looks healthy; I don't think it's a candidate for removal with our canopy grant. Probably best case scenario is to replace the sidewalk and try to protect the roots. Commission Member Tim Morey would like to have the tree reevaluated. Should the tree be good in 5 years then proceed to save the tree during the sidewalk replacement project. Should it not be good in 5 years

consider taking it out and replacing it. This discussion was tabled until next meeting.

Commission Member Brett Mengee brought up that the 6 Sephora trees being held on Meade St. are not thriving where they are currently planted. He discussed the possible planting sites of:

1. In front of the First Methodist Church
2. Reclaim the old tree pit in front of Carson's
3. One, possibly two, in front of Timeless Destination
4. In front of the Arcadia Theatre

Borough Manager Louis Rachiele suggested getting them in the ground sooner rather than later due to the money spent on them and the distance the Commission traveled to purchase the trees. Other Commission members felt these were good places but a final decision wasn't made.

Adjourn – Commission Member Scott Nichols made a motion to adjourn at 8:59AM. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Brett Mengee. The next Shade Tree Commission meeting is on August 10, 2026 @ 8:30AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tiffany Thomas.
Administrative Assistant