

## **Board of Tree Experts Minutes**

**May 29, 2024**

The Board of Tree Experts met on this date at the Board Office, 101 W Veterans Hwy, Jackson, NJ 08527.

### **Those present were:**

G. Lovallo, Vice Chair  
J. Greipp  
M. Goggin (Phone)  
B. Emens (Zoom)  
T. Wyckoff (Zoom)  
S. Spero (Zoom)

### **DAsG**

Candice McLaughlin, DAG  
Bruce Velzy, DAG

### **Staff**

B. Brash, Program Manager  
P. Aufiero, Recording Secretary  
A. Dietz, Admin. Assist.  
L. Hayes, Admin. Assist.  
L. Herrera, Admin. Assist.

### **Compliance Inspectors**

E. Jones  
D. Garrett  
J. Cramer  
N. Johnson

### **Meeting called to order at 9:36am**

- I. **Open Public Meeting Act:** Read by P. Aufiero
  
- II. **Agenda:** Motion to approve Agenda by B. Emens, seconded by J. Greipp. Motion passed, unanimously.
  
- III. **Minutes of May 29, 2024**  
Motion to approve minutes with changes/corrections by J. Greipp, seconded by B. Emens. Motion passed, unanimously.

#### IV. Administrative Report:

- a. Compliance with the Law: Monthly reports distributed to members and staff.
- b. License Renewals: some companies are not renewing due to lack of enforcement. List on the website those companies that have a judgement against them. There continues to be a public concern about unlicensed operators.
- c. Registered companies and licensees have a “duty to cooperate”. Inspectors can ask for any records e.g. insurance, registrations
- d. Website with Business Directory to check for registered companies; website has been modified for CEUs and a calendar added-
- e. Penalties: B. Brash will meet with DAG C. McLaughlin regarding collection of penalties through DORES.
- f. Phone system was installed, working well.  
The phones were paid by S. Chisholm., B. Velzy ~~did not find anything that would still waiting for a decision from DEP’s Ethics Officer on prevent~~ this donation.

#### V. Financial Report

Color Coded report distributed to all members and staff.

#### VI. Inspector Report

- a. N. Johnson has visited several municipalities in the Cape May County area. He presented an overview of the requirements to Cape May City. A list of municipalities from the NJ Shade Tree Federation will be requested.
- b. D. Garrett has contacted JCP&L and PSE&G for them to have eyes on for violators.
- c. J. Cramer sees many repeat offenders.
- d. E. Jones has gotten feedback from many companies about the lack of enforcement and the ability of registered businesses to compete with unregistered ones. He also has seen a problem complying with standards from landscape companies that have registered and have a licensee.
- e. B. Emens suggests that the inspectors schedule days where all of them flood certain areas to show a strong presence.
- f. Report on a fatality in Pennington. No specifics available yet.

#### VII. General Public . . .None

#### VIII. Unfinished Business:

- a. Edgar Neri: waiver request denial, email his response to B. Velzy when it comes in.
- ~~b.~~ Steven James, email response to B. Velzy.
- ~~b-c.~~ Dragonetti application: Tree Board staff needs to gather additional facts.
- ~~c-d.~~ Rules addition: attach an expiration date to passing grade on the exam. Example; if a candidate passes the exam on March 30, is approved by the board at the next meeting and is notified but does not pay the license fee the test score expires the following March 30.

**IX. New Business:**

Motion to approve 3 new businesses

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>
Jakkam Tree Service LLC	LTCO	Berkeley Hts, (Motion by J. Greipp, 2 <sup>nd</sup> B. Emens)
Franklin & Sons Green LLC	LTCO	Elizabeth, NJ (Motion by B. Emens, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by M. Goggin)
Hiram Land and Timber LLC	LTCO	Toms River (Motion by J. Greipp, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by M. Goggin)

All 3 motions passed unanimously.

- g. Motion to approve LTE Reciprocity (exemption from the written portion of the LTE exam, only) for Beau Norris, by J. Greipp, seconded by T. Wyckoff. Motion passed, unanimously.
- h. Motion to table LTCO Reciprocity for John DeRouville pending additional information and verify years of experience, by J. Greipp, seconded by B. Emens. Motion passed, unanimously.  
Motion to table LTCO Reciprocity for **David Vater** by M. Goggin, seconded by J. Greipp pending additional info and having 2 letters signed. Motion passed, unanimously.
- i. A motion was made to certify the exam grades of the Licensed Tree Care Operator applicants for the class of June 11 & 12, 2024, who have attained passing grades and will have their names read into the June 18, 2024, minutes, by J. Greipp, seconded by T. Wyckoff. Motion passed, unanimously.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>
Jose Mora-Gonzalez	LTCO	Berkeley Hts, NJ
Franklin Espinoza	LTCO	Elizabeth, NJ
David Moore	LTCO	Cape May Courthouse, NJ

- j. Policy Question: Law states after failing the initial exam the candidate must wait 3 months before retaking the exam. Can the company continue to work?  
Answer: B. Velzy advised that the law is clear that a business must have a licensee. He will investigate it further.
- k. List of possible legislative changes:  
Stop Work Order  
Collections by way of municipal or county courts  
Stump grinders only CEUs
- l. Honorary LTE? Has the Board considered awarding an honorary LTE or an award of merit to someone who has been a partner to the board and has assisted in board activities?  
A motion was made by G. Lovallo and seconded by J. Greipp to approve awarding the first "Honorary Tree Expert" to Dr. Jason Graboski. Motion passed

unanimously. The award will be presented at the Annual Shade Tree Federation Conference in October 2024.

- m.** DOIT/Website: Logo was sent to Gabrielle; pictures will be sent before the next meeting.
  - n.** Collection will be taken for a donation in memorial, Laura K. Chisholm.
- X.** Motion to go into **closed session** by J. Greipp, seconded by B. Emens. Motion passed, unanimously at 12:25pm.  
Back to open session at 12:28pm.
- Motion to adjourn by B. Emens seconded by M. Goggin at 12:29pm. Motion passed unanimously.**