



Verona Shade Tree Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes of **February 9, 2026** at 5 p.m. in person and via Internet Conferencing

		Action Required
1.	Call to order at 5:05 pm a) Open Public Meetings Act Statement: Read b) Roll Call: Carol Thomas ___x___ Bob Prout _____ Ira Jacobs (member) ___x___ Val Ryan (member) _____ Catherine Tamasik (member) ___x___ Diane Convoy (alternate) Kathy Rutherford (alternate) Councilwoman Christine McGrath (Council Representative) _x___ Quorum Established: Yes	
2.	Public Comment Period: None	
3.	Correspondence:	
4	Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2026 MOTION to Approve: Thomas Second: Jacobs APPROVAL: All Members Present _x_____ Abstentions: none	approved minutes will be sent to Township Clerk
5	<u>Budget:</u>	

<p>6</p>	<p><u>New and Unfinished Business:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ms. Thomas is talking with Jackie Johnston and the president of Gracie & Harrigan, re the CFMP. The report is late. b. The tree inventory and data base are not working smoothly. Ms. Thomas and Ms. Rutherford need to try to program. c. NCS Grant. Our request was denied with a letter explaining that more information is needed. We will resubmit once the requested information is gathered. The agency wants more information about, for example, the proposed locations for the new trees requested and a planting timeline. Some of the sites we propose to plant new trees, such as along Grove Avenue, will need County approval. d. Ms. Thomas has requested a meeting with DPW to discuss, among other things, a planting plan for 2026 and 2027, budget status of shade tree and capital funds, status of tree removals and maintenance, residents requests, tree pruning particularly on Derwent, Lynwood and Ann and Cypress. e. The BOE received a grant to plant 50 trees at the schools. Ms. Thomas gave the BOE a list of species to choose from. The Township will maintain the trees. f. 21-25 Grove. We have reviewed the developers' planting plan: STC recommends they remove ginkos, and replace maples with oaks. g. Arbor Day 2026. Mr. Jacobs prepared a write-up directed to fifth graders about the importance of trees. Maybe distribute seedlings to these kids? What other Arbor Day activity can we sponsor? h. Councilmember McGrath advised the Committee about the new redevelopment areas in town. i. Township Manager Kevin O'Sullivan is working with Sidewalk Saver and another vendor, discussing some alternative sidewalk ideas for future projects. 	<p>What is status of Gracie & Harrigan report?</p> <p>Who will provide needed info?</p> <p>Ms. Thomas to schedule meeting</p> <p>Review revised plan</p> <p>Need to plan an Arbor Day activity</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Motion to Adjourn: Tamasik Second: Jacobs Adjournment: 6:15 pm Next Meeting: March 9, 2026</p>	