

MEETING
June 16, 2026

NJ Board of Tree Experts

Minutes

Attendees:

Members: Steve Chisholm, Chairman, Kevin Downes, Barry Emens, Joe Greipp, Rich Wolowicz, Shari Spero, Todd Wyckoff

Bruce Velzy, DAG

Staff: Amy Cramer, Program Manager, Arlene Dietz, Debra Jones, Erik Jones

Public in Attendance: Bob Wolf, Robin Zeh, Karen Kissel

I. Open Public Meetings Act read by A. Cramer

II. Motion to approve the Agenda made by B. Emens, seconded by J. Greipp
Passed unanimously

III. Motion to approve the Minutes of the May 19, 2026 Meeting made by B. Emens, seconded by R. Wolowicz. Motion approved unanimously with corrections.

IV. Administrative Report

Monthly Stats – A. Cramer is calling unrenewed businesses to encourage them to renew in a more timely fashion.

New Legislation: The State website shows ours still has not been codified.

A. Cramer would like to contact the state to find out who is in charge of this process so we can get an idea of when it will be codified. B. Velzy will look into it.

V. Financial Report

Revenue is almost adequate but will not break even this year. We will be about 60,000 short.

Discussion of strategies for next year could include internships through local colleges, co-op students to be paid minimum wage or to ask for volunteers from the industry to assist during busy times of the year (i.e. retirees).

VI. Compliance Inspectors Report reviewed

- VII. Public: B. Emens wanted to report that he checked 8 companies working in his area and all 8 were compliant.
K. Kissel asked what the requirements were to be in compliance. B. Emens gave a brief explanation.

VIII. Unfinished Business

Exam Translation- B. Velzy is reviewing our NDA and when that is done we will send it to the translation committee so we can begin the translation project.

Bruce Velzy suggested that, in the interim, A. Cramer could just send an email to the committee reminding them that the exams are confidential. J. Greipp felt that there should be some signed agreement. B. Velzy recommended that all the members of the translation committee sign or acknowledge receipt of the email.

Bruce Velzy offered that exams are not a public record and not available to the public and would not be subject to OPRA requests.

Christina Best translated exam instructions to be given out at the July exam.

Thomas Karkas – Robin Zeh gave a lengthy discussion about the regulations required of the Board in issuing suspensions and the Board's responsibility for T. Karkas' not renewing his license.

Bruce Velzy discussed the legal issues. He re-iterated the 3 options available to Mr. Karkas to resolve this issue. He discussed the legal aspects and the fact that the Board has no documentation of renewal or transfer from CTE to LTE.

J. Greipp re-iterated the Board's decision from last month to renew the license with payment for all 4 of the previous renewal cycles and to accept 64 CEU's for the renewal.

Bruce Velzy agreed that the Board has made a decision regarding this issue and can go ahead with the renewal or to pursue the issue further with the legal team.

Amy Cramer will advise Mr. Karkas of the Board's decision and that they must pay all of the missed renewal payments (\$525.00 including late fees).

IX. New Business

- a. Board Meeting Locations – It would be expedient to discontinue the change of locations for the Board Meetings and just have all the meetings in the Jackson location starting next year. Zoom is available for those far away.
- b. One Solution – owner brought in new business registration – One Solution has large amount of fines. Since this new company has a new owner listed, it is not likely that we can hold the new company responsible for the fines. The Board decided that since B. Velzy advised that the new company would not be responsible for the penalties, we should issue an AONOCAPA before One Solution Co. closes.

X. Review of Applications

Business Registrations – Grinding Stumps & Tree Services
Heck's Tree Services

J. Greipp made a motion to approve, seconded by B. Emens, motion passed unanimously.

Exam Passed Jordan Heck

J. Greipp made a motion to approve, seconded by T. Wyckoff, motion passed unanimously

LTCO Reciprocity Ramiro Contreras approved

J. Greipp made a motion to approve, seconded by T. Wyckoff, motion passed unanimously

LTE Reciprocity Russell Clark needs new letters

Retro CEU request: Business owner who wanted to get CEU's for trainings he performed with his crews should fill out agenda for each and find out whether the owner is licensed and if his CEU's are currently up to date.

Erik Jones had a question about whether the Board had any capability to find out if the Businesses are withdrawing taxes from their worker's paychecks or if there is any kind of tax evasion going on with a business. B. Velzy recommended the Division of Revenue as a resource and K. Downes recommended the Department of Labor. S. Chisholm recommended N.J. CRIB to research workers' comp information if you suspect they are not paying workers on the books.

A. Cramer will be making inquires regarding who, at the State, is managing our database since we need some changes made and have not been able to find out who can do them.

K. Kissel asked what, as a member of the public, she should do if she sees an unregistered business working in her area. She was advised to notify the Board to see if an inspector is available or take pictures if it is safe to do so without causing any confrontation.

J. Greipp made a motion to adjourn, B. Emens seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.