

Community Forestry Management Plan

Annual accomplishment report form

(This form must serve as the cover page to your report).

Date: February 3, 2016

Municipality Borough of Point Pleasant Beach

County Ocean

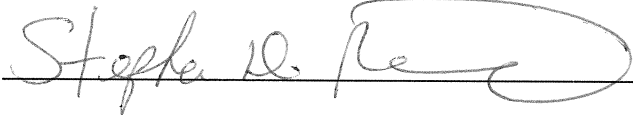
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Organization Name Pt. Pleasant Beach Shade Tree Commission

Mayor/County Freeholder's Signature 

Date of Management Plan Approval 2014

Time Period Covered in Management Plan _____

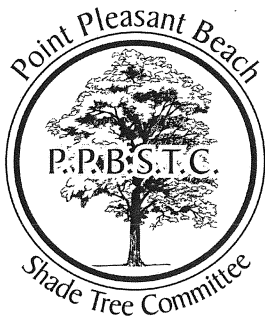
Date of Annual Accomplishment Report Submission February 3, 2016

Accomplishment Report for Calendar Year 2015

Electronic submissions are preferred.

Submit Report Electronically to: carrie.sargeant@dep.nj.gov

Or via traditional post to: NJ Department of Environmental Protection
State Forestry Service - Community Forestry Program
Mail Code 501-04
PO Box 404
Trenton, NJ 08625



Members: Clem Bremer
Elaine Hennessy
Anne Lightburn
Peter Renner
Pete Ritchings
Council Liaison: Thomas Vogel

Date: January 5, 2016
To: New Jersey State Forestry Services
Subject: 2015 Point Pleasant Beach Shade Tree Commission Annual Report

The Point Pleasant Beach Shade Tree Commission's Forestry Management Plan was approved in 2014. 2015 has been an exciting year for the commission as it has been involved in the planning and implementation of a plan to revitalize the treescape of the borough's Downtown Commercial District.

The following accomplishments were achieved against the approved plan's goals and objectives:

Goal 1: Maintain the safety of the Borough's shade trees on public property.

In 2015, hazard tree removal letters were followed up by additional letters and visits to homeowners by shade tree commission members. The ongoing follow-up process has resulted in tree pruning, tree removal and replacement.

A new district-by-district hazard tree survey has begun in 2015 by commission members. The commission has set a goal to work with the borough's code enforcement officer to notify property owners of hazardous trees. We expect that this initiative to result in additional tree removal and replacement in 2016.

Goal 2: Develop a training and awareness program for residents.

Several articles were published in the weekly local newspaper, The Ocean Star. The articles encouraged homeowners and businesses to plant new trees under the Big Beautiful Tree Program. They also educated homeowners on the energy benefits, flood control and clean air advantages to be gained from maintaining and expanding our Urban Tree Canopy.

Commissioners watered over 65 TD Bank grant trees that were planted in 2014. Watering was done during the summer and early fall to ensure success for absentee homeowners. During the watering process, flyers were distributed to homeowners informing them of the need for watering to keep newly planted trees alive. Commissioners also rang doorbells and encouraged homeowners to take over the tree watering.

Due to other activities the commission has not been able to pursue Tree City USA status.

Goal 3: Conduct a street tree inventory and keep it current.

A survey of trees conducted in the Downtown Commercial District resulted in the designation of eight trees to be removed and replaced in 2016. This survey also resulted in the designation of approximately 28 trees to be pruned.

Tree surveys were also conducted in the four town districts to identify dead trees and hazard trees. The Commission will pursue Grant Funds to expand their survey activity in 2016 and work with code enforcement to notify property owners of the hazard trees.

In 2016, the Commission's priority goal is to begin a street tree inventory involving high school students and volunteers.

Goal 4: Maintain and increase the borough's tree canopy via tree planting.

The commission has been involved with major plans for reviving the treescape of aging Bradford Pears in the Downtown Business District. Commission members along with a CTE and borough staff identified some trees needing immediate removal and replacement and those that could service for several more years with pruning. Commission members worked with the CTE to develop a plan which included appropriate replacement trees and barren spots where new trees can be planted. Six trees are scheduled for barren spots, three were planted winter 2015 and three are scheduled for early spring 2016. The commission is working with the borough to plant additional trees in 2016 beyond the initial six trees.

The Commission also researched and arranged for the planting a new specimen spruce on a highly visible traffic island as motorists enter Point Pleasant Beach.

Over \$1400 was raised by the commission's Big Beautiful Tree fundraising campaign. This money was spent on planting 4 new trees with a caliper of at least 2 inches. The trees were planted, on residential properties, in Point Pleasant Beach and Point Pleasant Borough.

Over 897 hours of volunteer time was spent, watering trees, maintaining street tree sites, evaluating hazard trees, conducting a tree inventory, fundraising, community outreach, planning, planting trees, attending meetings and attending training.

The commission also had over 65 trees professionally pruned late fall to encourage healthier growth and remove dead branches.

The Commission efforts were successful in getting the governing body to establish a Shade Tree Trust Fund, in 2014, to replace and maintain trees on public property. The fund has a 2015 year-end balance of \$2,015.38, with a 2016 budget request to add \$5,000.

Goal 5: Investigate methods to alleviate or repair sidewalk heaving without damaging tree roots or removing the tree.

For the Downtown Commercial District tree planting project, the use of root barriers to limit root growth under sidewalks and the expansion of the tree planting boxes were expanded from 3'x3' to 3'x5' based on commission input and recommendations.

Training

Commissioners Elaine Hennessy, Peter Renner, Anne Lightburn and Clemens Bremer attended the Annual Shade Tree Conference in October 2015 picking up a total of 24 CEU's. Additionally Patricia Kile, borough employee, attended CORE training.