

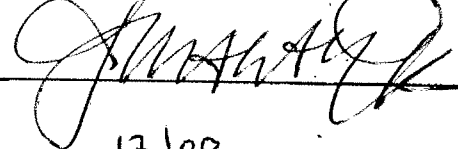
Community Forestry Management Plan

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT FORM

Municipality Bernards Township
 County Somerset
 Address 1 Collyer Lane
Basking Ridge NJ 07920

Contact Name and Title Mark Harabedian, STC Vice Chairman
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Organization Name Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission

Mayor/County Freeholder's Signature 
 Date of Management Plan Approval 12/08

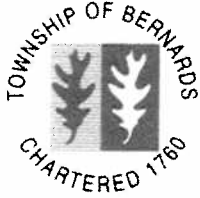
Time Period Covered in Management Plan 2008 - 2012

Date of Annual Accomplishment Report Submission 1/10/11

Accomplishment Report for Calendar Year 2010

***PLEASE INCLUDE THIS FORM AS THE COVER PAGE TO YOUR ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT**

Submit Report To:
 Community Forestry Program
 501 East State Street
 PO Box 404
 Trenton, NJ 08625
 Attn: Todd Wyckoff



Resolution of the Township of Bernards

1 Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Phone: 908-204-3001; Fax: 908-204-3015; Website: www.bernards.org

Resolution #2011-0055 Acceptance of Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission **2010 Annual Report**

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 2-17.4b. of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Bernards, the Shade Tree Commission shall make an annual report to the Township Committee; and.

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission is submitting a report pursuant to this requirement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Bernards, that the following report be accepted.

Report

Community Forestry Program Administration:

The Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission (STC) consists of seven volunteer Member positions, two Alternates, a DPW Liaison, a Secretary and a Township Committee Liaison. This year, we had two commissioners resign from their posts. The two alternates were appointed as commissioners to replace the vacancies. One alternate position was replaced in 2010. Currently, there is one alternate position open with plans to fill in 2011. The STC and the Department of Public Works (DPW) maintain the responsibility for tree resources in Bernards Township.

Training and Professional Development

One STC Alternate attended the CORE Training seminar at the N.J. Shade Tree Federation's Annual Meeting in Cherry Hill this past October. All of the commissioners have been CORE trained. Two Commissioners also attended the N.J. Shade Tree Federation's Annual Meeting in Cherry Hill this past October and participated in various training sessions. The STC has achieved and exceeded the required CEU for 2010.

Public Education/Awareness/Outreach:

The STC was engaged in various awareness programs in 2010. The Town's annual Charter Day this May gave us the opportunity to market the STC through an awareness booth. The STC assisted an Eagle Scout with a planting project for his badge requirement. Approximately, 240 tree seedlings (donated by the STC) were planted by the Eagle Scout in a 3 acre Town lot. Public awareness was obtained through numerous articles on the Eagle Scout's success and the STC involvement.

The Eagle Scout also developed a story board and discussed the project with the public at the STC booth during the Charter Day fair. Surplus tree seedlings from the Eagle Scout project were distributed to Town residents. Names of residents and street locations of potential tree hazards and replanting requests were also obtained during the event.

The annual Arbor Day ceremony was conducted by the ST Commissioners on April 24, 2010. The site selected for 2010 was in the Township's newest park (Sons of Liberty Farm) during the dedication to the public. Part of the celebration included the planting of a disease-resistant American Liberty Elm, a bronze plaque dedication and a reading of a poem by Thomas Paine by the STC. Information on the ceremony was submitted and printed on-line by the local newspapers.

The STC once again assisted with the planting selection and purchase of twelve trees at Ridge High School. Working with the Ridge High School Administration, the STC recommended various shade trees and locations for the plantings in order to enhance the entrance to the front of the building. Maintenance of the newly planted trees will be conducted by the student body and/or by the staff.

A representative from the STC also participated in various meetings during 2010 on planning for the "250th Anniversary Celebration" for the Town in 2010.

A STC representative was also appointed to the newly formed Beautification Task Force in Town, to assist with similar issues that are addressed with the public.

Statement of Tree Budget:

The 2010 Budget was set at \$6,750, which is lower than prior year but excludes planting costs. The STC utilized the Developer Tree Replacement Fund for planting costs, which were budgeted at \$15,000. Past results from outside consultants with the plantings have not been favorable. Plantings for 2010 have been completed by DPW; saving money, allowing better coordination and providing better results in tree survival. In-kind services are estimated at \$25,854. No significant changes or problems are anticipated in the budget this year.

Plan Implementation:

The renewal of the Community Forestry Management Plan for 2008-2012 was approved by the State of New Jersey in 2009.

The STC continued identifying tree hazards throughout the community. Working hand-in-hand with DPW and Somerset County, several trees hazards were removed.

A sub-committee was created to review existing tree ordinances in Town. The sub-committee was waiting the outcome of the Jackson Township case regarding builders funding for replacement trees. The State Supreme Court ruled in favor of Jackson but the sub-committee did not have time to review or propose changes to current ordinances. This sub-committee will be formed again in 2011 to complete the task.

A STC representative was appointed as an Alternate to the Town Planning Board Commission in 2009. The Planning Board has also adopted the Bernards Township Community Forestry Management Plan within the five-year Town Master Plan. Input from the STC was welcomed.

A STC representative is part of the Tree Protection Committee in Town. This Committee examines/approves any requests for take-downs when permits are required.

Windshield surveys by STC volunteers and DPW staff continued in 2010. Tree hazards and new tree planting locations were identified.

A tree inventory listing of the past three to four years of plantings was developed by a Shade Tree Commissioner this year. This will be the beginning of an inventory planting list, with future plantings being added each year. Communications between STC, DPW and Somerset County tree crews continue to be strong during 2010. Improved methods of tree hazard notifications via email and joint meetings assisted in this area. The STC webpage on the Township's website continues to be enhanced for better communication with residents.

Approximately 50 replacement trees were planted by DPW as recommended by the STC this year. Take downs were handled by DPW or an outside tree service.

Bernards Township was also approved for Tree City USA certification for a fifth straight year in a row. The renewal application has been submitted for 2011.

Community Stewardship Incentive Program

A Business Stimulus Fund Application was awarded from the State of NJ for \$7,400. A tree maintenance proposal with the application was submitted in November of 2009. After the required paperwork was finally approved, the project was completed by an outside consultant in the fall of 2010. The trees in downtown Basking Ridge section of the Township were cut back after several years of growth.

Mark Harabedian
STC Vice Chairman

Agenda and Date Voted: 01/11/2011

