

**New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act
Annual Accomplishment Report**

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT FORM

Municipality Morristown
County Morris
Address 200 South Street
Morristown NJ 07960
Contact Name and Title Tina Wahlstrom - Chairperson
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Organization Name Morristown Shade Tree Commission
Mayor/County Freeholder's Signature Tina Wahlstrom
Date of Management Plan Approval 4/2010
Time Period Covered in Management Plan 2010 - 2014 - new one being funded by Feb
Date of Annual Accomplishment Report Submission 1.20.15
Accomplishment Report for Calendar Year 2014

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

To Submit Report:
**Community Forestry Program
Attn: Alexander McCartney
Mail Code: 501-04
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625**

Morristown Shade Tree Commission

Accomplishment Report 2014

The establishing ordinance was passed by the Council in February 2013. The current Shade Tree Commission (STC) is composed of six voting members and two alternates, they are:

Kristin Ace (was appointed to fulfill the remaining four years of a five year term vacated in late 2013)

Ann Bertucci-alternate

Chantal Diedrich-secretary

Michael Rockland

Karl Roettger

Joe Torres-alternate

Tina Wahlstrom-chair

Louise Witt

There is one vacancy

For the majority of the year meetings were held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The STC re-elected Tina Wahlstrom as President/Chairperson and Chantal Dietrich as Secretary. Meeting agendas have been posted on the Town website prior to each meeting and minutes have been posted after approval by the STC. Eighteen meetings of the STC were held in 2014.

The STC established priorities for 2014 which were to 1) continue to work closely with DPW, the Town and residents to ensure the appropriate handling of requests for tree removal, pruning and planting, 2) update the Community Forestry Management Plan, 3) meet requirements for Approved Status with the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act, 4) update the previous tree inventory, 5) complete two significant tree plantings to fill empty tree wells in the central business district and fulfill resident requests for trees across all four Wards, 6) apply for Tree City USA status 7) establish two STC subcommittees for outreach and the development of policies/procedures regarding the management of Town trees 8) plan and execute an Arbor Day ceremony, 9) submit a 2014 Annual Report to the Mayor/Town Administrator and submit a 2015 budget request.

Accomplishments:

- 1) The process for managing the Town trees established in 2013 and agreed on by the Town Administrator, Town Engineer, arborist and the STC has been followed successfully in 2014. It facilitates tracking of resident requests/complaints and DPW/STC observations (e.g. pruning and removal) of Town trees and ensures follow up for issue resolution with residents. In 2014 The DPW pruned two hundred and six trees and removed seventy. In addition, the STC is now

- receiving a copy of the Board of Adjustments and Planning Board pipelines so that input on public trees can be provided by the STC as needed.
- 2) A contract was signed by the Town with Paul Cowie and Associates to update the CFMP in 2014. A workshop with the STC was held by Paul Cowie in November 2014. Interviews with DPW were planned. We expect to provide a final updated version to the Community Forestry Program in early 2015.
 - 3) As of December 2014 the STC is on track for meeting the requirements to maintain Approved Status by end of February 2015. The Accomplishment Report has been written and approved by the STC and will be ready for submission in February 2015. The CFMP should also be completed in February 2015. All other requirements have been met, which included obtaining a minimum of 8 Continuing Education Units.
 - 4) The tree inventory is being carried out by the Town Arborist who has completed 86% as of December 2014.
 - 5) A Spring tree planting plan was developed and carried out this year. It included planting a variety of species in open tree wells along Morris Street, South Street, Speedwell Avenue and Washington Streets. Thirty-nine trees and twenty shrubs were planted. A second Fall planting was also completed. This phase included replacing trees that were damaged, destroyed or removed as a result of recent storms in other areas of Town and fulfilling resident requests. The plan called for planting one hundred and twenty-five trees across all four Wards. Locations and tree species were selected. A contract was rewarded by the Town, however, the contractor was unable to fulfill the full commitment in the fall and eighty-nine trees were planted.
 - 6) The Tree City, USA application was submitted on time. Morristown meets all requirements and therefore we anticipate that Tree City, USA status will be awarded to the Town in early 2015.
 - 7) An Awareness Campaign subcommittee was established within the STC. The subcommittee met, created a plan, submitted the plan to the STC, and implementation has begun. As a result the STC page of the Town website now contains a link to 'the value of trees' site of the Arbor Day Foundation. In addition, a brochure on the negative impact of mulch volcanoes has been ordered and is ready for distribution to residents of the Town. And, a flyer for local businesses has been created to describe the appropriate process for lighting trees during the winter holidays. A Procedures subcommittee was established within the STC. The subcommittee met, created a plan, and submitted the plan to the STC. The STC will hear and vote on the remaining plan elements in early 2015.
 - 8) An Arbor Day Proclamation was made by the Mayor designating an official Arbor Day in Morristown for 2014. An Arbor Day ceremony was held in Tracy Park where a tree was planted, and a group of town residents including veterans, the Tracy family, Council members, the STC and Congressman Frelinghuysen heard remarks from the Mayor, the Chair of the STC and the Chair of the MEC.
 - 9) A budget was submitted to the Town Administrator for 2015 to include \$100 for membership in the NJ Shade Tree Federation, \$4900 for continuing education and training, \$1,000 for Arbor Day and \$500 for public relations and awareness campaign.

Tina Wahlstrom

Chair, Morristown Shade Tree Commission

December 31, 2014

