

**The Township Southampton**

**Community Forestry  
Management Plan**

**November 2012**

**prepared by**

**Southampton Township Shade Tree Commission**

**and**

**Kevin L. Scibilia**

**New Jersey Certified Tree Expert # 279**

**Community Forestry Management Plan  
Municipal Information Form**

**Township of Southampton  
Burlington County**

Address: 5 Retreat Road, Southampton, NJ 08088

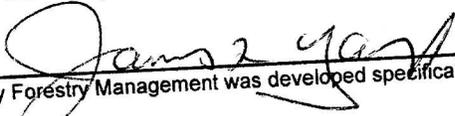
Contact name and title: Donna Fascenda Chair, Shade Tree Commission

Phone # (C) 609 859-0607

E-mail: dfascenda@comcast.net

Organization Name: Southampton Township Shade Tree Commission

Mayor's Signature

  
I certify that this Community Forestry Management was developed specifically and exclusively for our municipality.

Date of Management Plan Submission: November 2012

Time period covered in Management Plan: 2013-2017

Check off the Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) practices identified in the management plan.

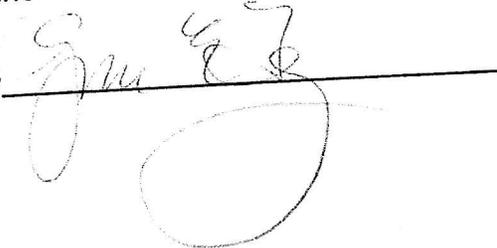
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> # 1 Training                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> # 2 Community Forestry Ordinance Establishment |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> # 3 Public Education and Awareness | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> # 4 Arbor Day                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> # 5 Tree Inventory                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> # 6 Hazard Tree Assessment                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> # 7 Storm Damage Assessment        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> # 8 Tree Maintenance and Removals              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> # 9 Insect and Disease Management  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> # 10 Wildfire Protection                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> # 11 Tree Planting                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> # 12 Tree Recycling                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> # 13 Sidewalk Maintenance Program  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> # 14 Storm Water Management                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> # 15 Other                                    |  |

Official Use only

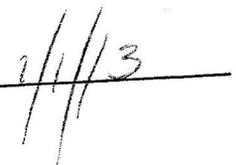
Certification

The above named community has made formal application to the New Jersey Forest Service. I am pleased to advise you that after our review, the NJ Forest Service has concluded that this plan meets standards set forth by the State and the NJ Community Forestry Council and is approved for the period covered.

State Forester



Approved Date



## FOREWARD

This is Southampton's first Community Forestry Management Plan. In speaking with the Commission members, it is apparent that their interest in providing for good tree management does not end with Township-owned trees. In fact, township-owned trees may be a minor portion of their management responsibilities once the extent of Township trees is finalized.

One of the stated goals is to reduce the number and extent of power outages to their residents even though township trees generally do not cause the outages. Furthermore it is the responsibility of the utilities themselves to maintain reliable service. As a former utility forester, I can attest that interested communities garnered more attention...the squeaky wheel phenomenon. I applaud the effort and results the Southampton Shade Tree Commission has accomplished in their interactions with the three electric utilities that service the Township.

The Commission has also chosen to apply itself to determining practical suppression methods for pests that affect trees in the Township. They plan on communicating this to the public. The idea is for a bottom-up approach where individuals protect a small number of trees (on their property) and by recruiting enough numbers, effect change on the forest. The trees that will benefit are largely private but serve the same public function that any tree does in the urban forest. This concept of care for all the trees regardless of ownership is appropriate to forest management and especially to trees in Southampton Township. The challenge will be in selecting suppression methods for gypsy moths or southern pine beetle and other tree pests that the public will be able to employ effectively.

The Southampton Shade Tree Commission is taking on the role as forest stewards for the tree resource, both public and private. This undertaking will be challenging but also has the potential for great benefit for the Township. The determination of the Commission is inspiring and I believe their efforts will be felt not so much in the coming five years covered by this plan but in the next five decades.

This is a true stewardship effort.

Kevin L Scibilia  
NJ Certified Tree Expert #279  
November 2012

## **2. Introduction**

### **A. Mission Statement**

The Township of Southampton recognizes the many benefits of trees in our community. These include shade, habitat for birds and other wildlife, and a more visually pleasing environment. It is our mission to provide for the benefit of the tree population both now and in the future.

### **B. Goals and Objectives**

#### **Goal #1: Determine extent of Township-owned trees**

Objectives:

- Determine the relative extent of trees within the township right of way.
  - Are trees inside the sidewalk within developments Township responsibility?
  - Map areas of heaviest concentrations of Township trees.
  - Based on mileage of Township trees, determine plausibility of a hazard tree survey verses tree inventory.

#### **Goal #2: Reduce the number of power outages caused by trees and/or limbs falling on or into electrical conductors**

Objectives:

- Maintain contact with all three electrical utilities, making them aware of dead/dangerous trees along their right of way corridors.
- Encourage planting of smaller stature trees near electrical conductors.
- Make a list of recommended small stature trees available on web page.
- Make public aware of distance needed from conductors to prevent severe pruning of large trees.

#### **Goal #3: Increase awareness and enthusiasm for trees on both public and private property.**

Objectives:

- Add Shade Tree Commission web page to the Township website.
- Update plant list for municipal grounds to include trees, separated by size at maturity.
  - Consider favoring native tree species
  - Make list available to the public on line.
- Reestablish Tree City USA status
- Revive Arbor Day celebration / ceremonial tree planting.
- Invite local tree professionals to speak to a grade at the elementary, middle or high school for a half hour each year. Consider arborists, landscapers, consultants, nursery owners, fruit growers, Christmas tree growers, foresters, timberland owners, among others.

- Populate web page three times per year with articles of concern such as southern pine beetle, gypsy moth, forest fire hazard, proper planting, proper pruning etc.
- Post articles in Central Record Newspaper

#### **Goal #4: Make residents aware of Pinelands ordinances**

##### Objectives:

- Present a summary of Pinelands ordinances and post to web page.
- Promote awareness of special considerations for residents residing in the Pinelands at various venues.
- Post articles in Central Record Newspaper

#### **Goal #5 Determine preventative measures for tree care**

##### Objectives:

- Determine possible treatments and feasibility of application to both public and private trees (area wide gypsy moth treatment, slowing southern pine beetle)

#### **Goal #6 Coordinate with the Planning Board and Zoning Board**

##### Objectives:

- Require tree plantings in new developments, commercial projects.
- Provide for protection of existing trees during construction.
- Require that new plantings be approved by the Shade Tree Commission (STC is notified of all applications requiring plantings or with existing trees on the property)

### **C. Liability Statement**

Although street trees are an asset to the community, it is inevitable that they mature and require maintenance and, eventually, replacement. Maintenance and replacement, in addition to planting “the right tree in the right place,” can help insure that community trees not only contribute to the environmental and economic vitality of the area, but also reduce the potential hazards to public safety. Southampton Township must work within a reasonable budget that may not be able to meet each and every need of the community forest immediately. Therefore, it is the intent of this plan to focus available resources to the greatest need and work incrementally toward a healthy forest with commensurate reduced risks to public safety.

We believe that following the logical steps outlined in this plan will meet with public support for plan implementation and yield long-term benefits to the environment and public safety.

Whereas no maintenance program can predict each tree failure before it occurs, the Township of Southampton is taking reasonable care of a living and changing resource. By following this plan, Southampton is demonstrating its commitment of reasonable levels of

resources in a planned manner. This is expected to reduce exposure to liabilities and increase public safety by reducing significantly the occurrence of tree-related accidents.

### **3. Community Overview**

The Township of Southampton is a rural agricultural community in central Burlington County occupying approximately 44 square miles. The Township is located in the Pine Barrens region of the state and about two thirds of it resides in the Pinelands National Reserve. US Route 206 approximately bisects the township from north to south and US Route 70 approximates the southern boundary. The northern portion of the township is overwhelmingly agricultural with large expanses of farm fields/cranberry bogs. In this agricultural area, forested areas border stream corridors and small forest patches cover wet areas not suitable for farming. The extreme southern portion of the township and southeastern third of the township is heavily forested with few breaks in the forest canopy other than roadways.

Many of the approximately 10,500 residents (2010 census), are in two population concentrations of Vincentown and Leisuretowne. Vincentown is located approximately in the central portion of the Township. Leisuretowne is in the south central region located wholly in the Pinelands National Reserve. Leisuretowne is high-density housing with relatively few trees in the clustered housing. Several smaller population developments are scattered throughout the Township. Also in the Pinelands region are Tranquility Ridge, and Oxford developments in the southeast corner, and a development mostly in Tabernacle Township but spilling into the extreme southwest corner of Southampton. The roads comprising this corner of the development are Independence Drive, Constitution Drive and Fox Hill Drive. This development and Tranquility Ridge are in heavily forested areas. The cover type is pine oak with some lesser number of other hardwoods especially in poorly drained areas. Oxford development is devoid of any native trees and appears to have been developed on land previously devoted to agriculture.

The Ridings Development is located west of Vincentown and has many trees planted 8 feet off the roadway. It is not clear if these trees are on Township property. The plantings are about 20 years old and lower limbs crowd the roadway making it difficult for two trucks or busses to pass one another. A large number of black oak are exhibiting scorch symptoms. These trees may decline in the next few years requiring replacement. Using a different species as a replacement would be advisable.

There are approximately 200 miles of roadway maintained by the Township. Vincentown has typical lawn extensions between the sidewalk and curb. However, the widths of the planting strips appear highly variable with some strips less than three feet and others six or more feet wide. Sidewalk heaving in town reportedly has been a problem. Throughout the rest of the Township, it does not appear from casual observation that many trees are growing within the right-of-way.

Three electric utilities service Southampton Township, Jersey Central Power and Light, Public Service Electric and Gas, and Atlantic Electric. Dealing with three entities, rather than one normally found in municipalities, complicates monitoring regular pruning cycles and the work being done. Electrical conductors must be kept free from contact with vegetation to prevent arcing and power outages. Regular directional pruning by the various electric utilities leave trees with big voids sometimes resembling large slingshots or a large letter "L". When trees grow within contact of the conductors, the utilities will prune them in the most practical manner afforded them. This is most often the directional pruning method, attempting to direct the major scaffold branches of the tree around the conductors. The ultimate solution to the utility pruning conflict is to plant small stature trees under or along the electrical conductors and large-growing trees at least 30 feet from the nearest primary conductor. In traditional town-type settings, there is not enough room generally to plant large-growing trees on the side of the street where electrical conductors are present without eventual interference with the conductors. If acceptable, the most practical approach would be to plant small stature trees under electrical conductors and if desired, plant large-growing trees on the other side of the street. The obvious problem is that the view of the street will not be balanced.

Sometimes towns can cooperate with the utility by removing trees that are causing problems for both the town and the utility. Candidate trees might be those growing into the conductors and also heaving sidewalks. An acceptable arrangement can involve the utility removing the top of the tree with the Township responsible for removing the trunk and planting a new tree. It should be understood by both the utility and Southampton that replacement trees would be of smaller stature at maturity so they will not interfere with the conductors and would be less likely to heave sidewalks. Trees that do not reach the height of the conductors will not be pruned into offending shapes. Another possibility is to locate new plantings trees, not in the lawn extension, but well inside the sidewalk if room exists between the sidewalk and house. Depending on the mature size of the tree, the horizontal distance from the conductor could be 0 to 30 feet. Not only will this reduce the pruning necessary to keep the conductors clear, but by allowing more rooting area not confined by the curb on one side, there should be less heaved walks in the future. Proper selection of tree species and careful consideration of their planting location should always be considered as well as maintaining diversity within the community.

The forest cover types of Southampton Township vary from the oak-pine ecotype common in the pine barrens, to predominantly oak forests, to forest stands displaying a mixture of hardwoods such as gums, red maple, beech and hickories in addition to the oaks. The oak-pine ecotype typical of the Pine Barrens is one that is highly vulnerable to wildfire. The most dangerous aspect of wildfire to persons and property is when the fire rises into the tops of the pine trees, known as a crown fire. If you have ever placed a bough of pine in a fire, you know how quickly the needles ignite and the speed at which they burn. In a forested environment, fire that enters the crowns of pine trees tends to travel very quickly and to produce tremendous amounts of heat. The combination of fast moving flames and very hot temperatures gives crown fires the potential to produce serious harm to life and property. A risk assessment of wildfire has been done by the New Jersey Forest Fire Service but lacks sufficient detail to be actionable. More specific

information such as how far the home should combustible materials be kept, types of fires resistant landscaping, fire resistant roofing etc. can be found at [firewise.org](http://firewise.org).

A simple visual search of Google Earth indicates that Tranquility Ridge, and the area of Independence, Constitution and Fox Hill are heavily forested right up to the homes. Ground observations confirm that these houses are built in the forest with little clearing around structures to act as a buffer in the event of wildfire. It is interesting to note that pines are the dominant pioneer species in areas that were cleared of forest such as along roadways. Should large expanses of oak die due to hot ground fires or from other causes, such as gypsy moth defoliation, the resurgence of pines would increase fire danger for decades to come. This increased risk would persist until oaks could become established again in sufficient quantities to again act as a buffer to crown fires. As far as protecting from catastrophic crown fires goes, it is important to protect the broad-leaf trees that buffer the spread of fire from one pine crown to the next.

The challenges that face Southampton Township are different in many ways from more urban/suburban communities, since their "urban forest" does not conform to the typical trees planted in lawn extensions between the sidewalk and curb. In the future, the Southampton Township Master Plan calls for densely populated residential centers similar to Vincentown proper. The traditional arrangement of trees along the roadways may increase when such developments are realized. Until that time, the Shade Tree Commission is approaching the problem of the forest in its entirety, not just municipally-owned trees. The community outreach will be directed at individual homeowners who, by acting en masse, can steward the forest where the municipality cannot. The benefit to the community from this approach is expected to be the same, just accomplished largely with privately-owned trees instead of municipally-owned trees.

#### **4. Arbor Day Activities**

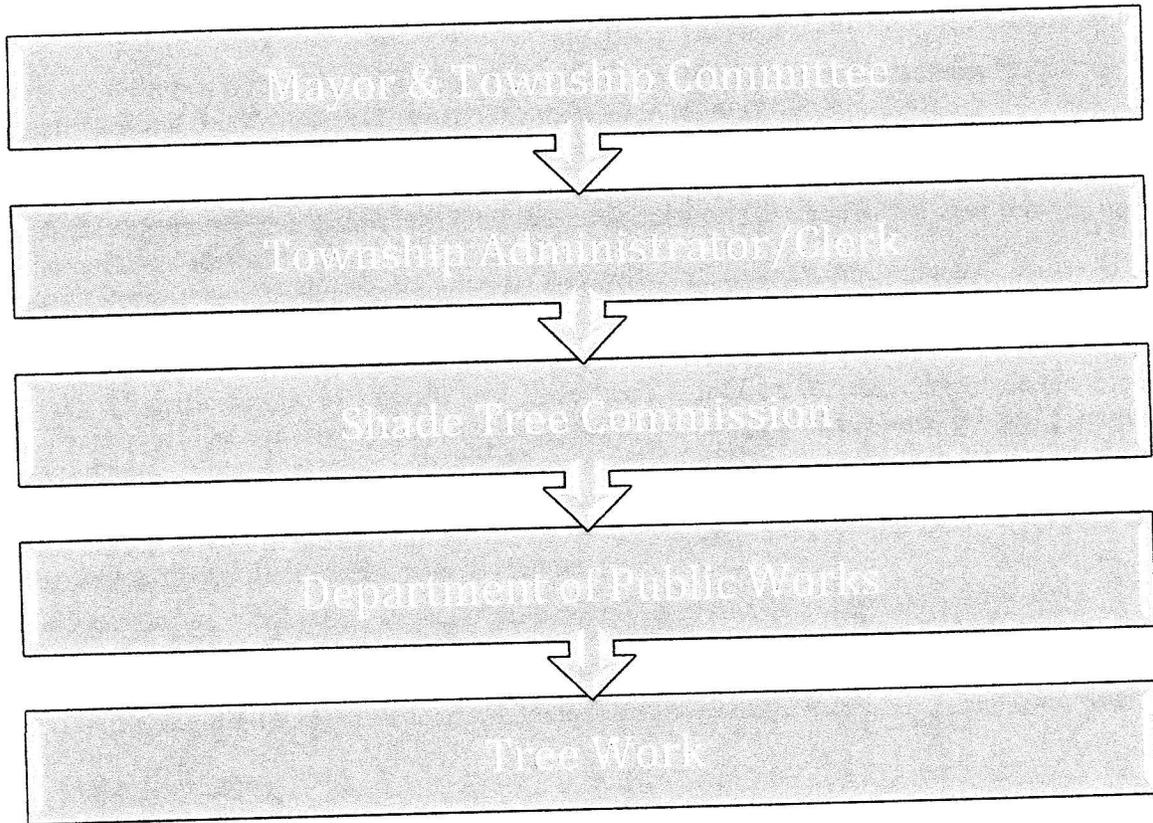
Arbor Day activities center around the schools, with students receiving a seedling tree to plant at home.

The Shade Tree Commission can investigate getting tree professionals to give talks to the students on or around Arbor Day. People to contact may include foresters, nursery owners, Christmas tree growers, arborists, botanists, naturalists, sawyers and others.

In the past, trees have been purchased by the Shade Tree Commission and planted by Department of Public Works. More recently due to reduced staffing in DPW, this responsibility has shifted to private contractors who provide the trees. It may be possible to coordinate one or more of these plantings into an Arbor Day celebration. This would be especially effective if the ceremonial planting occurred at some highly visible public place such as a park, municipal building or school.

## **5. Community Forestry Program Administration**

### **Organizational Chart for the Southampton Township**



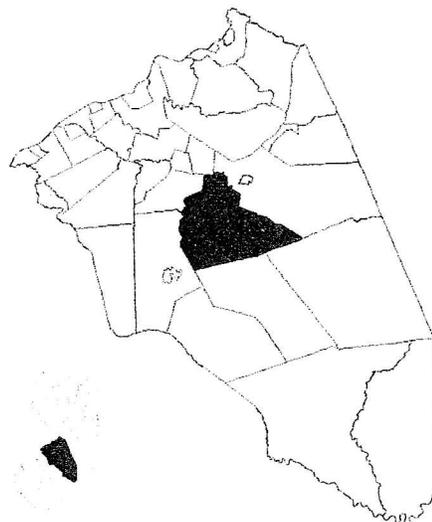
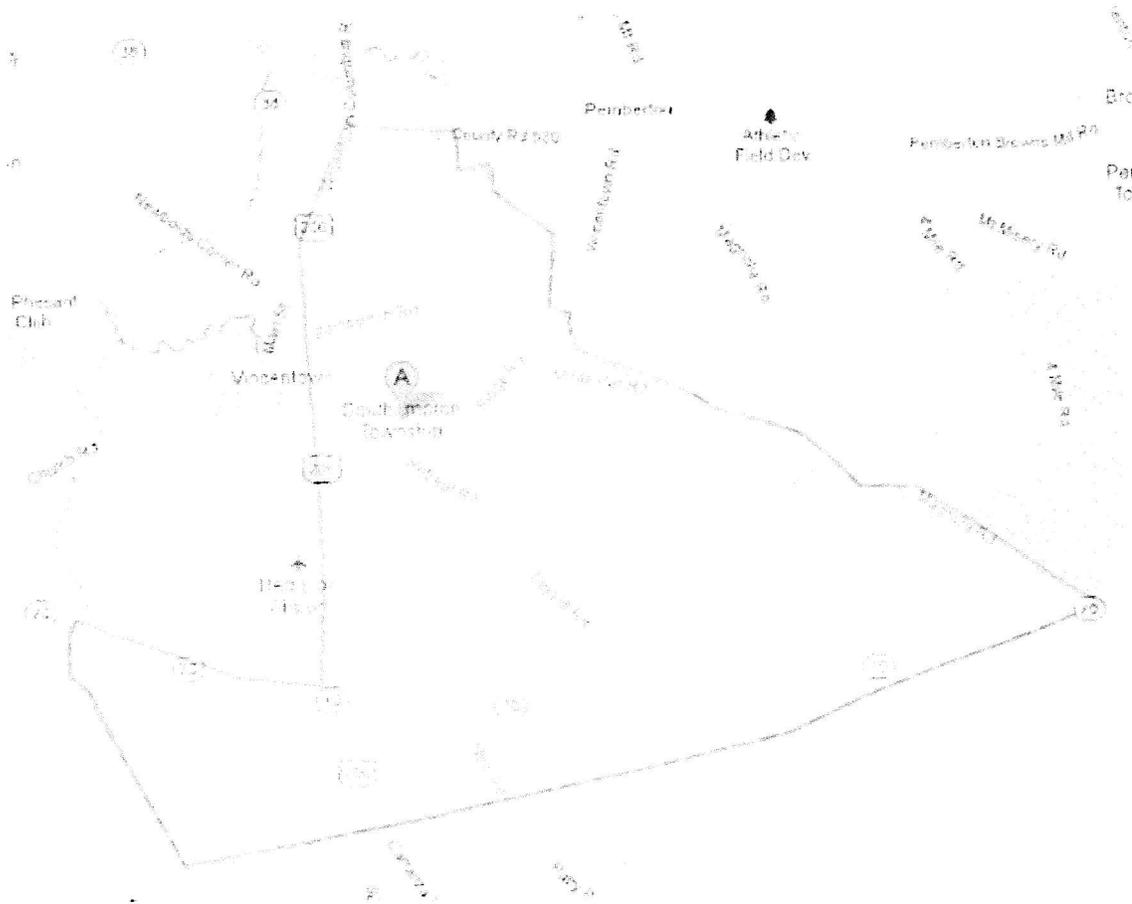
The Community Forestry Management Plan will be administered through the Township's Shade Tree Commission. This Commission will review the plan no less than annually to ascertain progress against stated goals and to consider adjustments. Municipal trees are cared for through the Shade Tree Commission, the Department of Public Works and contracted tree companies when necessary.

## **6. Community Map of Southampton Township, Burlington County, NJ**

Pink outline indicates Southampton Township municipal border

Gray Shading identifies Pinelands National Reserve within Southampton Township

Red shading indicates location of Southampton Township in Burlington County, NJ



## 7. Training Plan

Currently, two individuals are CORE trained. It is desirable to maintain more than two CORE trained individuals if one or more currently trained individuals is unable to perform their task. Southampton is seeking to have one additional member CORE trained within this upcoming five-year plan.

At times it may be difficult to get a number of volunteers to Continuing Education Seminars and it is desirable to expand the training to more volunteers for much the same reasons as given for CORE Training. One option may be to have on-site training seminars that would be more cost effective for a group of individuals as well as more flexible in scheduling and topic selection. At least one consultant on the training list does provide on-site training. Refer to [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/forest/community/pdf\\_files/recommended\\_ceu\\_courses.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/forest/community/pdf_files/recommended_ceu_courses.pdf)

Specific topics of interest that have been identified for the current Shade Tree members are hazard tree identification, proper pruning practices and proper planting techniques. Future training may incorporate identification of pests that are endemic in Southampton. Signs of southern pine beetle, sampling for gypsy moth egg masses, and identifying instars of caterpillars as part of identifying and suppressing insect outbreaks in the Township are additional topics of interest.

**Training overview.** Training is divided into Core training and Continuing Education Credits (CEU's). The information below is taken directly from the Community Forestry Act training skills and Accreditation Program pages 56-58:

### **CORE Training**

CORE Training is designed to familiarize individuals with the background of Community Forestry and Shade Tree Commissions, the legal aspects of managing trees and the recognition of hazardous tree situations. CORE Training is a requirement for municipalities and counties to gain Approved Status under the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act.

#### **CORE TRAINING DOES NOT RECEIVE CEU CREDIT**

CORE Training programs will accredit the individuals attending the program. If an individual moves out of a municipality or county, the accreditation status goes with them and a replacement will need to be trained.

#### **CORE TRAINING IS FOR:**

- Persons participating in local tree boards, commissions, or groups designated by the Mayor as the responsible party for community trees
- Any municipal or county representative or employee charged with the mission of providing maintenance or stewardship to community trees

#### **REQUIREMENTS:**

A minimum of two persons per municipality or county seeking accreditation under the Act must attend CORE Training.

- One person must be a local municipal employee or elected official.
- One person must be a commission member, board member, volunteer from the community, or elected official.

Completion of the CORE Training program will satisfy one of the three requirements of municipalities and counties seeking approved status for the **initial year** under the requirements of the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act. The other two initial requirements are an approved Community Forestry Management Plan, and the submission of an Annual Accomplishment Report prior to the deadline of February 15<sup>th</sup>. **After the initial year, municipalities are expected to meet all four requirements for Approved Status. These requirements are an approved Community Forestry Management Plan, a CORE trained municipal Volunteer, a CORE trained municipal Employee, submission of an Annual Accomplishment Report, and compiling a total of eight (8) CEU's by a minimum of two (2) people. No person or profession is exempt from CORE Training.**

## Core Training Topics

### ***BACKGROUND OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY AND SHADE TREE COMMISSIONS IN NEW JERSEY***

- History and development in New Jersey
- Programs
- Technical resources available
- Local, state, and national organizations
- Community Forestry Program grant opportunities

### ***LEGAL ASPECTS***

- Tort Claims/New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act
- Commissions vs. Advisory Boards
- State Statute governing municipal Shade Tree Commissions
- Sample ordinances for municipal Shade Tree Commissions
- Sample resolutions and regulations for County Commissions or County Boards
- Right of way issues

### ***HAZARDOUS TREE SITUATIONS***

- Understanding target areas
- Recognizing common tree defects
- Recognizing tree species that are prone to problems
- Prioritizing problem trees for maintenance or removal
- Recognizing sight line problems

### ***APPROVED STATUS UNDER THE ACT***

- Community Forestry Management Plans
  - The Municipality-Consulting Forester relationship
  - Guidelines
  - Submission and Approval Procedures
  - Reaching and Maintaining Approved Status

- Continuing Education Units (CEUs)
  - Fulfilling CEU requirements
  - CEU training opportunities
- CORE Training
  - Fulfilling CORE requirement
- Annual Accomplishment Report

### **Continuing Education Units**

Municipal or county Approved Status will continue past the initial year when individuals attend programs that offer Continuing Education Units (CEUs). CEU credits are acquired for the municipality or county, not the individual. If an individual who has acquired CEUs for a municipality or county moves out of that municipality or county in the same year, the CEU credits stay with the municipality or county.

#### ***CEUs ARE FOR:***

- Any individual representing the municipality or county who is in some way involved with or responsible for the Shade Tree resource in that municipality or county.
- **CORE Training is not a prerequisite for acquiring Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits.**

#### ***REQUIREMENTS:***

- **Each municipality/county must accrue a minimum total of eight (8) Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits annually to maintain approved status.**
- **No less than two (2) individuals representing the municipality/county each year must acquire these eight (8) CEUs.**

Continuing Education Unit credits will be offered to municipal representatives by a variety of organizations throughout the year. The accredited representatives of the municipality or county will receive notifications in the mail from the New Jersey Forest Service identifying some seminars, courses or conferences that offer CEU credits. Other programs pertaining to tree care may also be eligible to award CEU credits, including training put on "In-House" by a Consulting Forester or a CTE. **If an individual believes that a program they have attended should be eligible for Continuing Education Units, they should contact the Training Coordinator following the procedure for requesting CEU credits. Individuals, consultants, or contracted firms may only represent one municipality or county at a CEU course.**

### **CEU Categories**

#### ***SOME TOPICS THAT WOULD QUALIFY FOR CEU CREDITS:***

- Tree Selection
- Proper Tree Pruning
- Tree Planting Techniques
- Soils

- Insect and Disease Identification
- Tree Biology
- Tree Identification
- Beneficial Insects / Biological Controls
- Municipal Tree Budgets
- Tree Inventories
- Tree Maintenance
- Storm / Emergency Tree Management Plans
- Tree / Sidewalk Conflicts
- Wood Recycling / Leaf Composting
- Public Relations / Community Involvement
- Proper Use of Pesticides
- Trees and Utilities
- Integrated Pest Management
- Hazardous Tree Conditions
- Root Barriers
- Other Tree Related Topics

## **8. Public Education / Awareness / Outreach**

The Township of Southampton has currently lapsed in its designation of Tree City USA. Apparently, the calculations for the \$2 per capita requirement were not including all available sources and thus, the designation was lost. Meeting the requirements of the Arbor Day Foundation for Tree City USA is the responsibility of the Shade Tree Commission. One of the stated goals for this plan is to reestablish Tree City USA status.

To better utilize the Township's website, a Shade Tree webpage should be created to post articles of interest relating to trees. Three articles per year can be written for a Shade Tree webpage to maintain a fresh character and retain interest in residents visiting the Township webpage. These articles can be catalogued on the web page to provide a shade tree "library" of useful tree information for residents. Articles may provide meeting dates and scheduled activities as well as contact information. Informational articles concerning some of the most common tree questions and links to sites describing common problems or diseases would be an excellent resource for homeowners. Topics may include choosing the right tree species, proper planting techniques, how to fix a heaved sidewalk without damaging the tree, native plants for the Pinelands Region, pest suppression recommendations, and many others.

The Commission will continue to present educational information to the public. They may want to provide guest speakers in the schools on or near Arbor Day (see Section 4, Arbor Day). In addition, there is interest in reaching out to the senior citizen community through outreach in Leisuretowne by presentations or articles addressing Leisuretowne and the tree resource.

## **9. Tree Recycling**

The Township currently has some work performed by outside vendors who are responsible for disposing of wood waste. At present, plans are being made to obtain more cost-effective tree work by compiling a list of trees to be pruned/removed and putting this out to bid in the fall to be completed in the winter. Very little tree material is actually handled by the Department of Public Works.

## **10. Ordinance Establishment/Revision**

The existing ordinance should be reviewed annually by the Shade Tree Commission for any needed adjustments. Possible modifications to the Shade Tree Ordinance may include requiring the utilities to notify the Shade Tree Commission before regularly scheduled tree maintenance to clear the conductors (emergency and storm-damage work should be exempted); a plan allowing for the protection of existing vegetation as practical and the restoring and replacement of destroyed vegetation during development; designating the party responsible for maintaining trees planted within the Township easement; historic or heritage tree designation; guidelines for removal of trees within the Township right-of-way or during development.

The Shade Tree Commission should submit recommendations to the Mayor and Council for possible modifications to the Shade Tree Ordinance. (see attachment 1)

## **11. Tree Care Disaster Plan**

No formal Tree Care Disaster Plan currently exists for the Township of Southampton. Located in the Pine Barrens, wildfire is a very real threat. The extreme southern portion, as well as the southeastern one third of the Township, contain significant concentrations of pine cover. This cover type is conducive to fire reaching the crowns of the pine trees. These crown fires can be fast-moving and devastating. The presence of oaks in the pines serve to lessen the threat of crown fire but recent heavy defoliations by gypsy moth caterpillars are threatening to kill many oaks. Openings in the forest canopy are replaced with pine seedlings that have a pioneering advantage becoming established in the Pine Barrens. As these newly established pine trees grow taller, they will present what is known as a fuel ladder. Fire on the ground in areas with fuel ladders can quickly move up into the crowns of pine trees. Should the oaks die from multiple gypsy moth defoliation, ground fires, or other causes, the replacement by pines would increase fire danger for decades. The first two decades would be from the presence of fuel ladders. The succeeding decades would have little or no buffering by the oaks until they could establish and grow into the forest canopy.

It is very important to make widely available the recommendations found at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org). An evacuation plan for Leisuretowne may also be prudent. Even though the homes in Leisuretowne are more defendable than the developments previously

mentioned, heavy smoke may cause respiratory problems for the many seniors who reside there.

There are other disasters for which plans should be prepared. A good reference for managing tree disasters is "*Storms Over the Urban Forest*" at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/uf/sotuf/sotuf.htm>. In a full-scale disaster, contractors and utilities may not be able to access the Township in a timely fashion if surrounding roadways are also blocked. Since the Public Works Department may be quickly overwhelmed, thought should be given to forming a cooperative agreement with neighboring towns, and maintaining a list of reliable contractors who may be called for assistance. It should be policy that during an emergency that cannot be cleaned up in one day, the priority should be mitigating dangerous situations and opening up roadway arteries before cleanup is attempted. To that end, trucks should leave the yard without chippers so they may be more maneuverable and travel more efficiently to the various worksites. All municipal employees and especially Public Works employees should be thoroughly trained to recognize downed electrical conductors and know to avoid them. Consider listing priority roadways to open. Assure that sufficient saws, trucks, loaders, and other necessary equipment and trained personnel are available to clear streets. Designation of temporary storage areas for wood and tree trunks and/or branches should also be considered (listed).

## **12. Insect and Disease Management**

The major threats to Southampton trees currently are gypsy moth attacking the oaks and the southern pine beetle on the pines. Thankfully, the arrival of the emerald ash borer should have little impact on the Pine Barrens region with their paucity of ash trees. There is little that the Township can do as an entity other than cooperate with State programs for aerial suppression of gypsy moth. Timing of aerial suppression of gypsy moth is critical especially if biological suppression with bacteria is attempted. Factors such as rain, high winds, outdoor events and large treatment area, may limit the window of application. Suppression can suffer if the window of opportunity is missed.

An alternative method of countering insect attack may be in educating the public about measures they may take individually to protect trees around their homes. For instance, oak trees may be sprayed privately to suppress gypsy moth. Homeowners may also purchase or make sticky bands to inhibit the travel of caterpillars on their frequent trips up and down the trunk. Maryland Cooperative Extension has a good discussion of the topic at <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/pdf/GMBarrierBands.pdf>. Commercially made bands are also available, such as the BugBarrier Tree Band.

Southern pine beetle is also a problem at this time in Southampton. One simple defense against the SPB is to keep pine trees from becoming stressed by assuring proper watering and fertilization for pines around the home. Other options are discussed in a University of Kentucky Bulletin <http://www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/ef443.asp>.

Information such as this can be posted on the Shade Tree Commission webpage, published in the Central Record Newspaper, and/or broadly publicized to save trees one at a time around one house at a time. This bottom up approach is different from many suppression efforts such as the aerial spraying for gypsy moth suppression. Harassing insects from the top down and the bottom up approaches may possibly lead to better suppression particularly with trees close to homes which are considered to be of higher value because of their location.

As in many forested communities, the best protection from insects and disease is a diverse population. This is certainly difficult in the Pine Barrens where the species are more limited than areas with more fertile soils. In areas that are planted to ornamental trees, it is recommended that no one species comprise more than 5% of the total street tree population. Many pests are specific to one or a limited number of species. By having a diverse population, the pest tends to move more slowly because it does not have an endless supply of closely spaced susceptible hosts. The overall damage will be limited to the favored species leaving the remainder of the population in tact. If this is only 5% of the population, that is much more tolerable than the total catastrophe encountered in the Midwest when Dutch Elm disease swept through the towns that had lined their streets predominantly with American elms. There are many other examples of pests devastating large homogenous tree populations, such as chestnut blight, emerald ash borer, and southern pine beetle among others.

Typically, there is little money or will to keep pests in check by the application of pesticides to public trees. State sponsored gypsy moth suppression is a notable exception. Rarely is it necessary to apply pesticides to street trees to maintain their health. Given the fact that pesticide application is not likely to occur it is all the more important to guard against pest outbreaks with a diverse population. This is not to say that one street cannot be planted to all of the same tree. However it is wise to avoid planting multiple streets with the same species so they become a large component (greater than 5%) of the street tree population. Diversity will suppress major pest outbreaks and typically confine losses to a small proportion of the street tree population. No trees are immune from pest attacks.

Diversity also limits damage due to other causes. Bradford pear tends to split when it becomes about 20 years old because of poor branch structure. Ginkgo is fairly resistant to pest attacks but some develop fruit when they become about twenty years of age. This fruit when it rots has a very offensive odor (some say rotten butter, others dog excrement, but almost all agree it stinks!). Imagine the problems with half your town planted to ginkgo if half of them began producing fruit! Finally, not all trees live to be the same age. Smaller stature trees tend to be shorter lived than larger stature trees. A mixture of small stature and large stature trees will stagger the time when they mature and die. Many towns in New Jersey planted large numbers of Norway maples in the middle of the last century. In 50 years, a large proportion of the trees died off leaving huge gaps in the street tree population and taxing the ability of towns to remove the large number of dead trees. We need to learn from these past mistakes and not allow situations to manifest themselves in the coming decades because of poor planning. We are dealing with a resource that is likely to outlive us. It deserves proper planning.

**13. Statement of Tree Budget (2012 estimated)**

| Item   | Expense          |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Shade Tree Commission</b><br>Volunteer Services:<br>5 Shade Tree Commission members: 200 hours @ \$25.20/hour | \$5,040          |
| <b>Department of Public Works</b><br>Employee wages [2 workers full time on tree-related work ] @ \$22.61/hr     | \$45,220         |
| Arbor Day Foundation dues  | \$125.00         |
| Shade Tree Conference  | \$200.00         |
| Purchase of seedlings for Arbor Day  | \$180.00         |
| <b>Total tree-related expenditures</b>   | <b>\$ 50,765</b> |

## **14. Statement of Plan Implementation**

### **2013**

- Obtain core training for at least one additional member.
- Inspect Township trees, and trees near electrical conductors and alert responsible electric utility of hazards.
- Publicize wildfire hazard/recommendations suggested at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)
- Reestablish Tree City Status, Plan Arbor Day Celebration.
- Develop Shade Tree webpage for Southampton Township Web Site.
- Determine extent of Township-owned trees.
- Provide 8 CEU training credits to at least two shade tree personnel.
- File NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry and Assistance Act Annual Accomplishment Report

### **2014**

- Begin guest speaker program for school or Arbor Day speakers.
- Inspect Township trees, and trees near electrical conductors and alert responsible electric utility of hazards.
- Map areas of heaviest concentrations of Township trees.
- Contact zoning and planning boards requesting notification of all tree-related plans.
- Summarize tree-related Pinelands ordinances and present on Shade Tree Web Page.
- Write two additional articles for the web page 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters are probably best for timing, applicability (list of small stature trees under/near conductors, native trees).
- Publicize wildfire hazard/recommendations suggested at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)
- Provide 8 CEU training credits to at least two shade tree personnel.
- File NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry and Assistance Act Annual Accomplishment Report

### **2015**

- Inspect Township trees, and trees near electrical conductors and alert responsible electric utility of hazards.
- Determine preventative measure(s) to highlight and post to Shade Tree webpage. (Firewise recommendations, gypsy moth treatments, southern pine beetle, others)
- Write two additional articles for the web page 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters are probably best for timing, applicability.
- Maintain copies of previous articles on website.
- Maintain Tree City Status and Plan Arbor Day Celebration.
- Continue Arbor Day Speaker program.
- Maintain contact zoning and planning boards requesting notification of all tree-related plans.
- Publicize wildfire hazard/recommendations suggested at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)
- Provide 8 CEU training credits to at least two shade tree personnel.

- File NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry and Assistance Act Annual Accomplishment Report

## 2016

- Inspect Township trees, and trees near electrical conductors and alert responsible electric utility of hazards.
- Determine preventative measure(s) to highlight and post to Shade Tree Web page. (Firewise recommendations, gypsy moth treatments, southern pine beetle, others)
- Write two additional articles for the webpage 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters are probably best for timing and applicability.
- Maintain copies of previous articles on Township website.
- Consider presentation to Leisuretowne residents on Pinelands or other topic.
- Maintain Tree City Status, Plan Arbor Day Celebration.
- Continue Arbor Day Speaker program.
- Maintain contact zoning and planning boards requesting notification of all tree-related plans.
- Apply for CSIP grant for next five-year CFMP.
- Publicize wildfire hazard/recommendations suggested at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)
- Provide 8 CEU training credits to at least two shade tree personnel.
- File NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry and Assistance Act Annual Accomplishment Report

## 2017

- Inspect Township trees, and trees near electrical conductors and alert responsible electric utility of hazards.
- Determine preventative measure(s) to highlight and post to Shade Tree Web page. (Firewise recommendations, gypsy moth treatments, southern pine beetle, others)
- Write two additional articles for the webpage 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters are probably best for timing and applicability.
- Maintain copies of previous articles on website.
- Maintain Tree City Status, Plan Arbor Day Celebration.
- Continue Arbor Day Speaker program.
- Draft and submit next five-year CFMP.
- Maintain contact zoning and planning boards requesting notification of all tree-related plans.
- Publicize wildfire hazard/recommendations suggested at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)
- Provide 8 CEU training credits to at least two shade tree personnel.
- File NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry and Assistance Act Annual Accomplishment Report

## **15. Community Stewardship Incentive Program**

- 1) **Training:** Pages 10-13, Section 7; Page 18, Section 14.
- 2) **Community Forestry Ordinance Establishment:** Page 14, Section 10; Attachment 1.
- 3) **Public Education and Awareness:** Page 3, Goal 3; Page 7, Section 4; Page 13, Section 8; Pages 18-19, Section 14.
- 4) **Arbor Day:** Page 7, Section 4; Pages 18-19, Section 14.
- 5) **Tree Inventory:** Page 3, Goal 1; Pages 5-7, Section 3; Pages 18-19, Section 14.
- 6) **Hazard Tree Assessment:** Page 3, Goal 1; Pages 5-7, Section 3; Pages 18-19, Section 14.
- 7) **Storm Damage Assessment:** Pages 14-15, Section 11; Page 18, Section 14.
- 8) **Tree Maintenance and Removals:** Pages 8, Section 5; Page 17, Section 13; Pages 18-19, Section 14
- 9) **Insect and Disease Management:** Page 4, Goal 5; Pages 15-16, Section 12.
- 10) **Wildfire Protection:** Page 6, Section 3; Pages 14-15, Section 11; Page 18, Section 14.
- 11) **Tree Planting:** Page 5-6, Section 3.
- 12) **Tree Recycling:** Page 14, Section 9.
- 13) **Sidewalk Maintenance Program:** Page 7, Section 3.
- 14) **Storm Water Management:** Pages 6-7, Section 3.
- 15) **Other**

**Attachment 1**  
**Southampton Township Shade Tree Commission Ordinance**

**2-4 SHADE TREE COMMISSION.**

**2-4.1 Definitions.**

- a. "Street trees" shall mean trees, shrubs, bushes and other woody vegetation on land adjacent to all streets, avenues, or ways within the township.
- b. "Park trees" shall mean trees, shrubs, bushes and other woody vegetation in public parks having individual names, and all areas owned by the township, or to which the public has free access as a park.

**2-4.2 Creation and Establishment of a Shade Tree Commission.**

There is hereby created and established a **shade tree** commission for the Township of Southampton which shall consist of five members, citizens and residents of the township, who shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the township committee.

**2-4.3 Term of Office.**

The term of the five persons to be appointed by the mayor shall be five years except that the term of the two new members appointed pursuant to this section shall expire in December 31, 1994 and 1995 respectively.

**2-4.4 Compensation.**

Members of the **shade tree** commission shall serve without compensation.

**2-4.5 Duties and Responsibilities.**

It shall be the responsibility of the **shade tree** commission to study, investigate, counsel and develop and/or update annually, and administer a master plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets and in other public areas. Such plan will be presented annually to the township committee and upon their acceptance and approval shall constitute the official comprehensive **tree** plan for Southampton Township, State of New Jersey. The **shade tree** commission when requested by the township committee shall consider, investigate, make finding, report and recommend upon any special matter or question coming within the scope of its work.

#### **2-4.6 Operation.**

The **shade tree** commission shall choose its own officers, make its own rules and regulations and keep a journal of its proceedings. A majority of the members shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

#### **2-4.7 Street Tree Species to be Planted.**

No species other than those recommended by the commission may be planted as street trees without approval of the Southampton Township **Shade Tree** Commission. Such species will be in keeping with other trees in the respective areas of the township.

*Attachment 1*

#### **2-4.8 Spacing.**

The spacing of street trees will be in accordance with the master plan.

#### **2-4.9 Distance from Curbs and Sidewalks.**

Distance from curb and sidewalks will be in accordance with the **tree** master plan.

#### **2-4.10 Distance from Street Corners and Fireplugs.**

Distance from street corners and fireplugs will be in accordance with the **tree** master plan.

#### **2-4.11 Utilities.**

Utilities will be in accordance with the **tree** master plan.

#### **2-4.12 Public Tree Care.**

Southampton Township shall have the right to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees, plants and shrubs within the lines of all streets, alleys, avenues, land, squares, and public grounds, as may be necessary to insure public safety or to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds. The **shade tree** commission may remove or cause or order to be removed, any **tree** or part thereof which is in an unsafe condition or which by reason of its nature is injurious to sewers, electric power lines, gas lines, water lines, or other public improvements, or is infected with any injurious fungus, insect or other pest. This subsection does not prohibit the planting of street trees by adjacent property owners providing that the selection and location of said trees is in accordance with subsections 2-4.7 through 2-4.11 of this section.

#### **2-4.13 Tree Topping.**

It shall be unlawful as a normal practice for any person, firm or city department to top any street **tree**, park **tree**, or other **tree** on public property. Topping is defined as the

severe cutting back of limbs to stubs larger than three inches in diameter within the **tree's** crown to such a degree so as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the **tree**. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes, or certain trees under utility wires or other obstructions where other pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this section at the discretion of the **shade tree** commission.

#### **2-4.14 Pruning Corner Clearance.**

Every owner of any **tree** overhanging any street or right of way within Southampton Township shall prune the branches so that such branches shall not obstruct the light from any street lamp or obstruct the view of any street intersection and so that there shall be a clear space of 12 feet above roadway, eight feet above walkway. Said owners shall remove all dead, diseased or dangerous trees, or broken or decayed limbs which constitute a menace to the safety of the public. Southampton Township shall have the right to prune any **tree** or shrub on private property when it interferes with the proper spread of light along the street from a street light or interferes with visibility of any traffic control device or sign.

*Attachment 1*

#### **2-4.15 Dead or Diseased Tree Removal on Private Property.**

Southampton Township shall have the right to cause the removal of any dead or diseased trees on private property within Southampton Township when such trees constitute a hazard to life and property, or harbor insects or disease which constitute a potential threat to other trees within Southampton Township. The **shade tree** commission will notify in writing the owners of such trees. Removal shall be done by said owners at their own expense within 60 days after the date of service of notice. In the event of failure of owners to comply with such provisions, Southampton Township shall have the authority to remove such trees and charge the cost of removal on the owners property tax notice.

#### **2-4.16 Removal of Stumps.**

All stumps of street and park trees shall be removed below the surface of the ground so that the top of the stump shall not project above the surface of the ground.

#### **2-4.17 Interference with Shade Tree Commission.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to prevent, delay or interfere with the **shade tree** commission or any of its agents, while engaging in and about planting, cultivating, mulching, pruning, spraying or removing of any street trees, park trees, or trees on private grounds, as authorized in this section.

#### **2-4.18 Arborists License and Bond.**

It shall be unlawful for any person or firm to engage in the business or occupation of pruning, treating, or removing street or park trees within Southampton Township without first applying for and procuring a permit. The permit shall be two (\$2.00) dollars annually in advance; provided however, that no permit shall be required of any public service company or township employee doing such work in the pursuit of their public service endeavors. Before any permit shall be issued, each applicant shall first file evidence of possession of liability insurance indemnifying the township or any person injured or damage resulting from the pursuit of such endeavors as herein described.

#### **2-4.19 Review by Township Committee.**

The township committee shall have the right to review the conduct, acts, and decisions of the **shade tree** commission. Any person may appeal from any ruling or order of the **shade tree** commission to the township committee who may hear the matter and make final decision.

#### **2-4.20 Penalty.**

Any person violating any provision of this section shall be, upon conviction or a plea of guilty in Southampton Township Municipal Court, subject to a fine not to exceed five hundred (\$500.00) dollars.