

Borough of Chatham
Annual Report
2007
Shade Tree Commission

Mathew Petitjean – Commission Chair

Summary

The Shade Tree Commission had a very successful 2007. Below are highlights from the year:

- Planted nearly 70 trees in the Borough
- Root fertilized nearly 175 trees that were planted in the past 3 years
- Presented Chatham Borough's Shade Tree operations at the Annual Shade Tree Federations meeting in Cherry Hill, NJ.
- Participated in a joint project with "Friends of Chatham Borough Shade Trees" to plant 53 trees at 3 Borough School properties. Funding was achieved with a "Cool Cities" grant.
- Scheduled planting of 60 trees for spring 2008 tree planting
- Engaged in Streetscape committee to aid in selection of street trees for downtown district.
- Maintained Tree City USA status
- Maintained continuing education credits

Mission

Chatham Borough has had a Shade Tree Commission since 1909. The Shade Tree Commission's responsibilities include planting and maintaining trees along Borough streets, public rights-of ways, and municipal open spaces. The goal of the Shade Tree Commission is to create and maintain optimum tree cover and species diversity while keeping up a pruning and removal program that will keep our streets and parks safe.

Members

The Shade Tree Commission consists of 9 Volunteers; 7 commission members and 2 alternates. The commission Chair is Matthew Petitjean and the Commission Secretary is Mark Schmitter. Volunteers spend time on special projects such as: community outreach, identifying planting locations for new trees, education, and reviewing resident's tree concerns. The committee members take time out of their busy schedules to be stewards of the health and safety of the Borough's "green infrastructure".

Tree Removals

With co-operation with the Department of Public Works, a total of 91 trees were removed in 2007 in the Borough. Trees are removed when they are a safety risk, damaged, or are damaging the surrounding infrastructure. Many of the removals in 2007 consisted of newly planted trees that did not survive the early hot weather. While the total number of trees has increased year over year, the actual net loss may be less than expected due to the average DBH of trees removed.

| Year | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DPW | 53 | 56 | 67 | 37 | 72 |
| Private Contractor | 11 | 25 | 5 | 14 | 8 |
| JCP&L | 28 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 11 |
| State DOT | Na | Na | Na | 20 | na |
| Total | 92 | 88 | 74 | 76 | 91 |

Tree Pruning

This year DPW pruned 105 trees by request and proactively pruned 242 trees in all 3 zones. JCP&L pruned 3 trees in the borough and 22 trees required a private contractor to prune. This proactive pruning is key to promoting the health of the boroughs existing trees. It will also help reduce storm related damage.

Tree Plantings

Tree plantings are a time intensive activity for the commission. Identifying locations in the Borough, coordinating with homeowner's requests, coordinating with contractors, and coordinating with nurseries is very time demanding. This year the commission coordinated the planting of 130 trees in the Borough. Trees are selected based on characteristics and planting location. Trees are selected to be visually appealing, have limited exposure to insects and diseases, tolerate harsh urban conditions, and limit interaction with overhead utility service.

In 2007 Trees were planted as part of three projects.

1. The spring 2007 planting was the annual planting that is funded with Shade Tree Commission funds. The plants were identified and quotes were solicited from nurseries statewide. Separately, quotes from local contractor are solicited to install the trees. A total of 67 trees were planted in the spring.
2. Morris County planted about 10 trees in the Borough on County Roads. .
3. The Shade Tree Commission, in cooperation with the "friends of Chatham Borough Shade Trees Inc." planted 53 trees on school properties in the Borough.

We are very satisfied that this many trees were planted in the Borough this year.

| Project | Trees |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Spring 2007 | 67 |
| Morris County Planting | 10 |
| STC, Friends of, Borough schools | 53 |
| Total 2007 | 130 |

In 2007 we have identified 61 locations for spring 2008 planting. Additionally, we have already awarded the nursery and landscape contractor POs for the 2008 planting. This was done with 2007 funds in order to avoid any shortfalls in the 2008 budget. This also coordinates with the long lead-time necessary for nurseries.

Budget

The Commission maintains a \$36,500 budget. The funds are allocated in the following manner:

| Description | \$ Amount |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Professional Services | \$2,000.00 |
| Misc | \$2,000.00 |
| Tree Planting | \$16,500.00 |
| Tree Pruning (DPW) | \$8,000.00 |
| Tree Removal (DPW) | \$8,000.00 |
| Total | \$36,500 |

Arbor Day

This year the Shade Tree Commission celebrated Arbor Day by planting a tree in memory of Edna Van Sickel Budd. In cooperation with the Historical Society and family members, Arbor Day was celebrated at the Library. Family, friends, Shade Tree Commission members, and elementary school students attended the ceremony where Borough Council read a proclamation, children read poems, and other activities. The event was very successful and the commission is planning a similar event for 2008.

Tree City USA

In 2007 Chatham Borough was once again recognized as a "Tree City USA". To qualify as a Tree City USA, we are required to maintain a management plan, a budget, celebrate Arbor Day, and have an established a Shade Tree commission

State Recognition

The Borough is recognized by the State as having "Status" under the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act. This means that we have submitted a 5-year management plan, attended continuing education courses, and at least 1 member of the commission is "Core Trained". This Status with the state reduces exposure to litigation.

Regular Meetings

The Commission held 6 regular meeting during 2007. Meetings are held the second Tuesday every other month starting in January. Meetings are held in Borough Hall, and published for the public to attend.

Publicity

There were 2 events covered by the Chatham Courier. Following the spring planting, an article about the commission was published. As well, an Arbor Day article was published with a picture of the tree planting at the library. The articles were very positive.

Friends of Chatham Borough Shade Trees

Incorporated in 2005, the Friends of Chatham Borough Shade Trees Inc. received formal designation as a nonprofit organization in 2006. The Friends of Chatham Borough Shade Trees Inc was created to support and supplement the work of the Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission. The "Friends of" group completed a successful project in 2006, partnering with the Shade Tree Commission and the New Jersey Department of Transportation to plant approximately 70 trees along the east and west ends of Route 124 (Main Street). Twenty dead or diseased trees were removed by the state with assistance from JCP&L.

The "Friends of" group received a \$500 grant from the Chatham Jaycees to offset the cost of our involvement in the Main Street planting project.

Late in 2006, 'Friends of' was awarded a "Cool Cities" grant for \$24,000.00 to plant trees around public schools that are currently under renovation and expansion. This project was kick off in the fall of 2007. A total of 53 trees were planted on school property in the Borough.

2008 Goals

- Continue to Streamline Tree Planting Location Identification
- Maintain Approved Status with State of New Jersey
- Maintain Tree City USA Status
- Have 2 Events Published in the Local Newspaper
- Celebrate Arbor Day
- Plant 100 Trees (not including friends of)
- Complete 8 CEUs
- Plan Main Street Planting with Streetscape Committee
- Review and Track Progress Against Management Plan
- Plan 100 year anniversary of the Shade Tree Commission