

**BOARD OF TREE EXPERTS****MINUTES****February 24, 2015**

The Board of Tree Experts met on this date at the Jackson Township Municipal Building in Jackson, N.J. at 9:41 a.m. to discuss the business of the Board.

Those present were:

Steve Chisholm, President  
Rich Wolowicz, Vice President  
Joe Greipp  
Mark Goggin  
Michael D'Errico, Program Manager  
Don Swaysland

Jennifer Dalia DAG  
Gary Lovallo

**Open Public Meetings Act:**

The open public meetings act was read by M. D'Errico.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

R. Wolowicz made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2014 meeting, M. Goggin seconded the motion which was unanimously approved with a small change.

**Administrative Report & Correspondence:**

M. D'Errico reported to the Board: That CTE # 105 Henry Bruno had passed away, a 4<sup>th</sup> application was received for the 2015 CTE Exam, he was making arrangements to reserve the CTE exam room at Rutgers, we are waiting on the Prep Course to be announced by the Society of CTE as the office has had several inquiries and we were working with the Forest Tree Nursery to resolve an issue with the US Postal Service over returned mail due to a change of address that had been processed.

**Treasurers Report:**

None

**General Public Comments:**

NJ Bureau of Forest Management representative, Don Swaysland said he was going to mentioned the issue of returned mail for the Nursery that had been discussed during the administrative report

**Old Business:**

A. Draft Rules, Impact and Summary Statements – DAG Dalia reported that she had sent edits of the draft rules to President Chisholm. S. Chisholm and the subcommittee will be reviewing and adjusting the edits if needed. The new edits will be returned to the DAG. Additionally the entire rule package has to be formatted. Once finalized, S. Chisholm will provide the Commissioner with a cover letter and a copy of the rules. A copy will also be sent to Forestry. The Board and DAG Dalia then discussed the

rules' process going forward, the posting of the rules on the NJ Register and the comment period of sixty days verse thirty days. DAG Dalia also discussed with the Board what happens when comments are received from the public during the comment period and how they could be handled. At the next board meeting, a copy of the path of rules will be provided to members.

B. BTE Audit update – M. D'Errico reported that the audit was still being worked on and that some additional information was asked for.

C. BTE annual meeting recap – The Board discussed the annual meeting as a copy of the event's agenda was provided. The power point presentation that night was on "The day after the rules are approved and what will happen". The Board discussed the difference between compliance and enforcement for the first 360 days after the rules are approved.

D. CTE – CA Survey results - Results from the survey of individuals having both the CTE and the CA credentials were discussed. 119 surveys were mailed with 52 surveys returned. Four questions were asked and the survey also had an area where written comments could be provided. Of the 52 surveys returned: 49 individuals responded that the certified arborist credential is "Not" equivalent to the certified tree Expert credential, 47 individuals responded "No" when asked "Should the Board of Tree Experts accept the certified arborist as a reciprocal credential to the license tree expert credential, 46 individuals answered "none" or left blank, 5 answered "BCMA" and 1 answered "ASCA-RCA" for consulting purposes when asked "what other credentials do they feel could be considered as an equivalent to the LTE and finally, 44 left blank or answered No", 6 answered "CA", 2 answered "BCMA" when asked "is there a credential that could be equivalent to the LTCO? Written comments reflected the above survey results. The Board discussed if a credential would be accepted with the addition of a field exam, in particular the BCMA credential.

E. Other – None

### **New Business:**

A. CTE Directory follow up – The Board was informed that 62 CTE's returned the CTE Directory. Discussion occurred about the on-line CTE directory and the Business directory that would be added once the rules were approved. The Board will have to make a decision going forward on just what information the two directories would have.

B. Compliance factsheets/brochure – The Board was provided copies of several draft facts sheets that informed the current CTE, the tree care business and the LTCO of their compliance to the LTE/LTCO law and rules. The Board discussed the idea of the fact sheets and making them into a point of purchase brochure.

Note: Board member Richard Wolowicz left the meeting - Board had no quorum

C. Other – The draft LTE/LTCO Training Course Application form was distributed to the Board. A discussion of the form followed. S. Chisholm reported that the Attorney General's office was looking for a Certified Tree Expert for litigation work on a fatality in Parin State Park. The Board discussed providing names. S. Chisholm will provide a listing of CTE's in the central/southern portion of the state that have the service of appraisals/insurance claims marked on their directory sheets.

### **General Public Comments:**

NJ Bureau of Forest Management representative, Don Swaysland said he received a call from a tree care company in January asking about the rules and the fact that a web company – HomeAdvisors.com currently is listing the fact that a tree care company must be licensed to operate in New Jersey. The Board discussed. Mr. Swaysland also asked the Board if will see an increase in its administrative work load in the future and how would the Board handle it? Mr. Swaysland wanted to know if Forestry Services would assist. The Board discussed. A copy of the fiscal note developed when the Law was going through the legislature and will be provided to the members at the next meeting.

**Closed Session:** None

**Next Meeting - Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 9:30 am in Jackson**

G. Lovallo moved to adjourn and J. Greipp seconded the motion. Motion passed  
**Meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.**