

**BOARD OF TREE EXPERTS****MINUTES****May 20, 2014**

The Board of Tree Experts met on this date at the Modern Equipment in Edison N.J. at 6:17 a.m. to discuss the business of the Board.

Those present were:

Steve Chisholm, President

Joseph Greipp

Rich Wolowicz

Barry Emens

Michael D'Errico, Program Coordinator

Jennifer Dalia, DAG –by phone

Gary Lovallo

Mark Goggin

Scott Cullen

Russell Carlson

John Wicks

**Open Public Meetings Act:**

The open public meetings act was read by M. D'Errico. R. Wolowicz made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2014 M. Goggin seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

**Correspondence/ Administrative Report:**

M. D'Errico reported that to the board that 8 individuals have sent their applications in for CTE exam which is schedules for July 9<sup>th</sup>. 36 individuals have signed up for session four of the CTE Prep course given by the Society of CTE. There are also 2 more “prep” courses being given as well. The deadline for applying for the exam is June 25<sup>th</sup>. A test taker from last year who failed the written part of the exam wanted to know which areas of the exam that they were weak in. M. D'Errico asked the Board how to handle. The board decided that he should be informed of the parts of the exam that were under the 70% passing rate. M. D'Errico discussed a phone received from Watchung Environmental commission seeking to verify if an individual was a CTE. They believed that a CTE should only have 3 numbers to their licensed while someone gave them 6. It was explained to the Board that CTE #'s recognized by the state do have 6 numbers. The Board office now has Wi-Fi. The web site has been updated with all currently approved minutes. A “renewals” report was provided to the board and M. D'Errico discussed the notification letter sent with the renewal notice as well as the differences of the 25, 50, 75 and 100 dollars owed.

**Treasurers Report:**

None

**General Public Comments:**

Three consulting arborist attended the board meeting – President S. Chisholm asked for public comment. All three consultants noted that they wanted to wait and will comment during the second public comment period.

## **Old Business:**

A. Discussion on Rules and the Summary and Impact Statements – DAG Dalia by telephone reported to the Board that her supervisor has review and commented on the LTE/LTCO drafted rules. The board discussed with the DAG the next steps which will be to have the subcommittee on the rules meet and go over the rules with the DAG and then call a special meeting of the board to approve the rules as written. DAG Dalia noted that once rules are approved by the subcommittee, she will forward them on to State forestry Services and will set up a meeting to discuss. From there, a meeting the DEP Commissioner will be scheduled and then the rules will be sent to the governor's office. DAG Dalia added that the impact and summary statements are good to go.

B. Follow up on Gilman and others letters – The board discussed the email letter received from CTE Lee Gilman and also the email letter received after the April Board meeting. G. Lovallo will forward to M. D'Errico for distribution to Board members and DAG Dalia the Division of Consumer Affairs information on exempting CTEs from the Home Improvement License. A copy will be posted on web site for CTEs to review. The board also felt that all other questions posed by Mr. Gilliam were answered (reference list of exam subjects posted to web, his phone number corrected in 11 CTE county listing) or will be answered as the board will discuss consulting credentials and the LTE/LTCO licenses next.

C. Consulting Services and LTE – M.D'Errico read two emails received from consulting arborists concerning the LTE/LTCO law and providing consulting services in New Jersey. The Board discussed. The board also looked at the definition of licensed tree expert services in the law and the inclusion of the word consulting in those services, as well as section 45:15C-18 c. which states the board may, in its discretion, may grant a tree expert license or a LTCO license to a individual who holds a substantially equivalent license or a certification by another jurisdiction.

Consultant Scott Cullen received permission to ask a question of DAG Dalia during this discussion. Should additional information on certifications be provided during the 30 public comment period of the rules or now? DAG Dalia responded that any information that would help the board in its decision process would be welcomed at any time. The board thought that the announcement of the 30 day review period of the rules should be posted on its web site.

D. Shirts – The purchasing of shirts for Board members and proctors is moving. Goal is to have before the CTE exam in July. All sizes were obtained.

D. Other – None

## **New Business:**

A. Subcommittee report on LTCO exam/test outline – The Subcommittee discussed the LTCO exam with the board. M. D'Errico handed out a summary of LTCO master subject list and read the Tree Care operators services from the law. The Board discussed the TCIA first class tree climber and tree care specialist tests which both have 200 questions and have there subjects grouped into categories. M. Goggin thought that cable and bracing should be added to the subjects listing. The board discussed whether safety is a stand alone subject or should be incorporated into each subject. Over 1000 questions had been developed from seven different categories. The Subcommittee needs to clearly

define the categories which will be used to base the exam on, and develop a percentage of questions for each of the categories that will be represented on the exam, with safety being a priority for the Board with a safety category or safety within each of the categories.

B. Business Registration Application – M. D’Errico informed the Board that the suggested changes from the last meeting were made to the application. A copy was provided.

C. Reciprocity Application – M. D’Errico informed the Board that the suggested changes from the last meeting were made to the reciprocity application. A copy was provided.

D. Dual licenses –LTE/Pesticides - -DAG Dalia is working on the situation and the final product is not finished. When the subcommittee looks at the draft rule document, they will have a chance to edit the section that recognizes dual licenses.

E. Other – B. Emens discussed the finding of EAB in New Jersey, The board was provided a copy of the Board Certified Master Arborist Study material.

**General Public Comments:**

President S. Chisholm asked the three attending consulting arborists to present their question/statements to the board. John Wicks of New York stated that a lot of his questions were answered by the discussion of the Board and he comments the board on its works. Mr. Wicks discussed the RCA credential, pesticide license vs. the LTE, a business that has been accredited by TCIA and his thoughts on cabling and the LTCO. Scott Cullen of Pennsylvania also provided the board with information on the RCA, the Connecticut Tree license and Business registration, the ASCA credential. Mr. Cullen offered to obtain the Connecticut law and forward that to the board. Russell Carlson of Delaware discussed consulting services and how tree litigation should be viewed.

**Closed Session:** None

**Next Meeting - Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 9:30 am at Board office in Jackson NJ**

G. Lovallo moved to adjourn and R. Wolowicz seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.