

Chapter 16

COMMUNITY FOREST COMMISSION

§ 16-1. Purpose.

§ 16-2. Powers and duties.

§ 16-3. Composition; appointment and terms; vacancies; compensation.

§ 16-4. Annual report.

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Branford 1-14-2009. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Green Committee — See Ch. 53.

§ 16-1. Purpose.

It is the purpose of this chapter to recognize and promote the importance of trees in the community and the many benefits they provide, including property value enhancement, home heating and cooling cost reduction, noise and light pollution abatement, wildlife habitat and food source, water purification and soil erosion prevention and atmospheric carbon dioxide reduction on public property within the Town of Branford.

§ 16-2. Powers and duties.

- A. The Community Forest Commission shall be charged with developing a comprehensive tree management plan for trees located on public properties, except for those located on the Town Green. The comprehensive plan shall include an inventory, species diversity, planting needs, hazardous trees, insect and disease problems and pattern of regular care, such as pruning. After such plan is submitted to and approved by the Board of Selectmen, the Commission shall establish an annual community forestry plan to implement the goals set forth in the comprehensive plan. The plan shall provide guidance for planting, maintaining and removing trees from streets, parks and other public properties.
- B. The Commission shall develop an educational program for residents, property owners, and developers concerning recommendations for plantings and maintenance of existing trees.
- C. The Commission shall organize an annual Arbor Day Celebration to promote and educate the community about the importance of trees and the many benefits that trees bring to our community. The Commission's funding by the Town through tax dollars shall be restricted to administrative expenses.

§ 16-3. Composition; appointment and terms; vacancies; compensation.

- A. Said Commission shall consist of five members, all of whom shall be residents of the Town of Branford. In addition, the Tree Warden shall be a nonvoting member of the Commission. The Commission shall not be comprised entirely of tree-related professionals.
- B. All members of said Commission shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen and shall serve for terms of three years; provided, however, that initially, in January 2009, two members shall be appointed for terms of three years, two members shall be appointed for two years and one member shall be appointed for a term of one year. The Commission shall elect a Chairman. Thereafter, in the month of January of each succeeding year members shall be appointed for terms of three years.
- C. In the event of a vacancy in the term of any member, the Board of Selectmen shall appoint a successor to serve for the balance of the term vacated. Any member may be removed for cause by said Board of Selectmen.
- D. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be compensated for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties as approved by the Commission.

§ 16-4. Annual report.

The Community Forest Commission shall submit an annual report to the Town summarizing its activities for the year.