

May 21, 2020  
Middlesex Municipal Building

The meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held remotely on the above date and called to order by Chairman Jason Bond.

“This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law in that the requirements of the law have been met by the Special Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on May 11, 2020.

Members:                 Jason Bond  
                               Dan Gitler  
                               Sean Johnson  
                               Jim Gorman  
                               Jeff Killian  
                               Doug Rex, Representative

Secretary                 Linda Chismar

Chairman Bond opened the meeting to the public.

Theresa Fritsch, 220 Greene Avenue called regarding the tree in front of this property. Mr. Bond had looked at this tree prior to the meeting and determined that it was a removal. Ms. Fritsch was concerned about the stump being grinded and also about it being removed under her sidewalk. Mr. Bond indicated that she could possibly negotiate to have Predator remove the roots under her sidewalk, but that would be her responsibility as the Code indicates that the homeowner is responsible for the sidewalk. She also questioned when the removal would be done, and was advised that we are presently awaiting the estimate for the removal from our contractor.

Seeing that there was no further public participation, Chairman Bond closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mr. Gorman made a motion to approve the March 12, 2020 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Gitler and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mr. Gitler moved to approve the March & April, 2020 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Bond and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

#### Communications

1. 208 Greene Avenue – Commission determined that the tree in front of this property needs to be pruned and branches must be removed.
2. 87 Ramsey Road – Commission agreed that the crimson king tree needs to have its canopy reduced and a crown reduction on both sides.

3. 220 Greene Avenue – Commission discussed in the Public Portion of the meeting..
4. 421 Fulton Street – Mr. Bond will look at the sidewalk that was damaged by tree roots.
5. 350 Bound Brook Road - Mr. Gitler and Mr. Johnson will go out to look at the Charlie Brown tree to determine if it is dead.
6. 317 Lorraine Avenue – Mr. Gitler will look at the tree in front of this property that resident is concerned that it is dangerous.
7. 131 Sherman Avenue – Mr. Gorman will go out to look at the dead tree that leaning on the fence on the side of this property.
8. 339 Lorraine Avenue – Mr. Gitler will go out to look at this tree that was trimmed last year, but resident feels that it is dropping branches.
9. 213 Beechwood Avenue – Mr. Bond will go out to look at the tree that the resident is concerned about.
10. 512 Chestnut Street – Secretary will obtain a quote to remove this tree and also a quote to prune. It seems to have bacterial leaf scorch, so Commission would like to look at the cost of both options.

#### Work Agenda

1. 437 Edgeworth Street – Commission feel that this tree is not a danger and they will not do anything at this time.
2. 202 Farragut Avenue – Mr. Bond will look at this tree and reassess.

#### Unfinished Business

1. 2020 Shade Tree Budget – Commission was advised that the 2020 Municipal Budget will be introduced on May 26, 2020 with a budget of \$35,000 for Shade Tree.

#### New Business

1. Arbor Day Proclamation – The governing body adopted the Arbor Day Proclamation, and Commission Chair will execute the Proclamation for the Shade Tree Commission.
2. Arbor Day Seedling Event – Commission discussed planting the seedlings that Mr. Killian will pick up on Wednesday. The Commission intends to a planting on the west side of Raritan Avenue between Lincoln Boulevard and Bound Brook Road. They would like to see if DPW could provide animal protection covers for the seedlings. Mr. Bond's employer has agreed to prepare a contract for the Borough whereby for no charge Jason would be able to use their trucks to water the seedlings this year free of charge. Mr. Bond will notify the Borough Administrator and provide

her with a copy of the contract. They are also considering a full truck of wood chips to put around the seedlings.

3. Arbor Day Tree – Commission agreed to have the Arbor Day tree planted in the courtyard at Mauger School. They are intending on planting a Davidia Tree if possible. Since the schools are closed, this planting probably will take place in the fall. Mr. Bond will contact Mr. Boltzer regarding this planting.
4. Red Bud Trees in front of Aquatronics. Commission determined that there are 2 trees that they planted in front of Aquatronics which are dead. Will consult with Mayor Madden if he would like them replaced.
5. Mr. Gitler will also consult with the Pastor at OLMV to inform him tht they may be planting whips on the right of way along Voorhees & Farragut. in the courtyard for Arbor Day and make a presentation regarding proper planting. Mr. Johnson will advise if he gets approval for this.

Mr. Gitler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Bond and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

---

Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY,  
June 11, 2020 – 7:30 PM  
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call Linda at 732-356-7400, Ext. 238