

October 8, 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 Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on September 28, 2020.

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

Secretary                Linda Chismar

Chairman Bond opened the meeting to the public. Seeing that there were no public comments, Chairman Bond closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mr. Gitler made a motion to approve the September 17, 2020 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the September, 2020 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Bond and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

#### Communications

1. 606 Ashland Road – Mr. Bond recommended due to bacterial leaf scorch this pin oak should be removed. The resident will be required to remove the decorative stones that he has installed prior to the contractor removing this tree.
2. 303 Melrose Avenue Mr. Killian will look at the large oak tree that is on the Delaware Avenue side of this property that branches falling.
3. 428 Howard Avenue – Resident reported that there are lanternflies on her newly planted shade tree. The commission feels that at this time they can only advise the homeowners to kill the lanternflies, but do not use pesticides. They also agreed to update the borough website with information regarding these lanternflies. They will consider looking into future treatment in the future.
4. 205 Union Avenue – Chairman Bond determined that the ash tree on the Hazelwood side of the property should be removed.

#### Work Agenda

1. 714 Pershing Avenue – Commission reported that the maple tree in front of property should be removed.
2. 101 Grandview Street Mr. Bond reported that a crown reduction should be done on this locust tree.
3. 318 Giles Avenue – Mr. Johnson reported that the Norway Maple should have a dead wood removal and remove limbs near cable wires.
4. 407 Walnut Street Mr. Gitler recommended that the middle Norway maple (in a group of 3) should be removed and reduce all branches around the wires. Mr. Gitler recommended discussing this further at the November 5, 2020 Meeting.
5. 501 Decatur Avenue – Mr. Gitler recommended a dead wood prune for this tree.
6. 434 Clinton Avenue – Mr. Gorman will go out to look at this tree for any potential issues.
7. 433 Fairview Avenue – Mr. Bond feels that nothing is needed on the tree in question.
8. 26 Mead Avenue – Mr. Gitler indicated that the tree with the Christmas Lights should be removed.
9. 316 Raphael Street – Mr. Gitler and Mr. Bond will look at this tree and do an assessment to determine its status.
10. 81 Louis Avenue – Mr. Bond recommended that the low branches on this tree should be removed and the wires should be cleared.
11. 207 Walnut Street – Mr. Killian reported that the tree has been pruned by PSE&G, but feels that the branches over the road should be cleaned out and trimmed.
12. 832 W. Second Street – This tree is recommended for removal.
13. 405 Giles Avenue – Mr. Bond recommended the one limb that is over the driveway be reduced.
14. 339 Lorraine Avenue – Secretary check on this borough tree, and Commission agreed to a dead wood prune.
15. 639 Cook Avenue – Commission reported that nothing was needed on this tree at this. At the beginning of the year, a pruning was done.
16. 710 Pershing Avenue – Commission feels that tree should be removed, but the decorative wall must be removed prior to the borough contractor removing. Mr. Bond will advise homeowner.
17. 125 Jay Place – Commission determined that this tree is a high priority removal.

18. 201 Chestnut Street – The silver maple should be removed and replaced with 2 trees.
19. 301 Decatur Avenue – Mr. Gitler determined that nothing was needed to this tree.
20. 421 Fulton Street – Mr. Bond determined that nothing was needed on this tree.
21. 350 Bound Brook Road – Commission feels that nothing is needed.
22. 5 Dunlap Place – Commission determined that the tree in question should have the dead branches pruned.
23. 408 Giles Avenue – Maple tree should have a 2” prune.

#### Follow Up

1. 501 Wellington Avenue – Commission noted that nothing is needed on this tree that homeowner had private contractor remove a lead off the tree. It will remain on follow up.
2. 443 Runyon Avenue – Commission will check on this tree in the Spring.

#### Unfinished Business

1. Covering of Seedlings on Raritan Avenue – Commission determined that on Sunday Dan and Jeff will do a clip up of the seedlings. They intend to remove the chicken wire in the spring and put in a heavier wire to cover the seedlings.

#### New Business

1. Tree Specifications for Fall Planting – Commission will review them ASAP and respond to the Secretary. Once she receives their approval, they will get quotes for the Fall Planting.
2. Quotes for Fall Planting & Locations – Commission will obtain at a minimum 2 quotes for fall planting. Once obtained, the Secretary will encumber funds for the planting of 20 trees from the approved vendor. The locations for these plantings will be discussed at the November 5, 2020 Meeting.
3. 140 Union Avenue – Commission reviewed the landscaping plans for 140 Union Avenue and had no recommendations to make based upon their plans.
4. November Meeting – Commission agreed to change their meeting to November 5, 2020, as the remote system will be used by the Board of Health on November 12, 2020, and it is more advantageous to have an earlier meeting to discuss the fall planting locations earlier in the month.

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

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Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY,  
November 5, 2020 – 7:30 PM  
REMOTE MEETING

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