

November 5, 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 October 9, 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. Seeing that there were no public comments, Chairman Bond closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mr. Bond made a motion to approve the October 8, 2020 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes as amended seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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

Communications

1. 205 & 206 Walnut Street – Mr. Bond will look at the hanging branches on both sides of the Walnut Street trees that resident requested be trimmed.
2. 32 Greenbrook Road – Mr. Gitler will go out to look at this tree that the property owner feels is dead.
3. 332 Lincoln Boulevard – Mr. Gorman will look at the tree on the E Street side of the property that is rotted out and has a hole in the trunk.
4. 48 Louis Avenue – Mr. Killian will look at the tree that is damaging sidewalk and resident feels is dying.
5. 118 Vogel Place – Mr. Gitler and Mr. Bond will look at the tree in front of this property that is split and entangled in wires.
6. 539 Howard Avenue – Mr. Gitler will look at the tree that resident would like removed, as she feels that the tree is sick and the bark distressed.
7. 314 Second Street – Mr. Bond will look at the tree that resident feels is growing out of the sidewalk.

Follow Up

1. 303 Melrose Avenue – Mr. Killian feels that the large oak tree on the Delaware Avenue side of the property looks good but needs to be elevated over the street.
2. 434 Clinton Avenue – Mr. Gorman feels that the pin oak does not need anything done to it.
3. 316 Raphael Street – Commission determined that nothing is needed on this tree in front of the property.
4. 404 Walnut Street – Commission determined that the middle Norway Maple (in group of 3 trees) should be removed and reduce all branches around the wires. This will be done in Spring, 2021 as this property is under construction.
5. 501 Wellington Avenue – Commission noted that nothing is needed on this tree that homeowner had private contractor remove a lead off the tree.
6. 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 Saturday they will install protective covering to cover the seedlings that were planted. The commission feels that they have about 40 left, from the 45 originally planted. Chairman Bond also reported that he will contact Lenny about the wood chips.

New Business

1. Review of Tree Removals – Prioritize Voucher – Commission determined that all tree work be encumbered by voucher and prioritized by the date that the tree concern was reported. The secretary will encumber funds for most all of the outstanding tree work as soon as possible. Any remaining tree work will be encumbered once the temporary budget is adopted in January, 2021.
2. Tree specifications for Fall Planting – Commission determined that they will get Quotes now for Fall, 2020 planting and table changes to the specifications until the Fall, 2021 planting. A change discussed for 2021 will be adding use of a protection of either burlap or jute twine to deter deer rubbing their antlers on tree.
3. Quotes for Fall planting & locations – Secretary will email packet to commission and requested that they receive at least one additional quote, as Boltzer has already submitted their quote to plant.
4. Mountain Avenue – Wood Avenue Project – Commission reviewed the landscaping plans and would like to recommend that they increase the quantity of woody plant material by 10% in all future projects, and that the soil analysis, when required, be made available to review along with site plans submitted to the Shade Tree Commission.

Also, two changes that were recommended on the plans for the Absolute Auto Site Redevelopment Project include the following:

- (a) In Item 7, Soil Conditioning, Section C Soil Modification (Pending Results of Soil Analysis), Section “a” should read “Thoroughly till organic matter (leaf compost) into the top 6 to 12 inches of **ALL** planting soil to improve the.....
- (b) Also in Item 7, Section A (See soil analysis) should be added.

5. Chairman Bond also attended the Joint Land Use Board Meeting and they would like the Shade Tree Commission to look at all site plans to approve of them and set guidelines. Chairman Bond feels that this is an excellent step to preserve trees in the borough. Also, the JLUB recommended that the Tree Replacement Fund ordinance should be reviewed so that the fees are updated, as other towns seem to charge much more for replacement trees.

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

Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY,
December 10, 2020 – 7:30 PM
REMOTE MEETING

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