

January 14, 2021  
Remote Meeting

The reorganization Meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held on the above date remotely and called to order by Secretary Linda Chismar:

“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 Annual Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on December 8, 2020”

Members:	Dan Gitler Sean Johnson Jim Gorman (late) Jason Bond Jeff Killian
Council Rep.:	Martin Quinn
Secretary	Linda Chismar

Dan Gitler made a motion to nominate Jason Bond for the Chairman of the Commission for 2021 seconded by Jeff Killian and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Sean Johnson made a motion to nominate Dan Gitler for Vice Chairman of the Commission for 2021 seconded by Jason Bond and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Chairman Bond opened the meeting to the public. Seeing that there was no public participation, Chairman Bond closed the public portion of the meeting. This meeting was also advertised that public comments or questions could be emailed to the Secretary prior to the meeting to be read into the record.

The Shade Tree Secretary read the following email that she received from Veronica Sengco, 700 Mountain Avenue:

I would like to request removal of the borough tree in my property. The reason I would like to remove this tree is because it is causing damage to my roof and gutter even that they already trimmed this before it is not helping in this situation. Now if my gutter got so much leaves it causing flood in my basement. Also, I was very concerned about the safety of my family because every storm we have thinking this tree will fall on my house is too close to the house if anything happen it will a big damage in my property and the safety of my family. I really appreciate if the town can remove this tree in my property permanently. I really appreciate if this done quicker.

Chairman Bond indicated that he would go to look at this concern and report back to the Commission.

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

Chairman Bond made a motion to approve the December 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes seconded by Dan Gitler and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Dan Gitler moved to accept the December, 2021 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Bond and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

### Communications

1. 141 Beechwood Avenue – Chairman Bond will look at the 6 maple trees in front of this property that resident is concerned about and that dropped a large limb in the last storm.
2. 443 Runyon Avenue – Commission feel that this tree is healthy and will reassess it when it has started to get leaves in the Spring.
3. 340 Runyon Avenue – Chairman Bond will look at this tree that resident reported is dropping branches.

### Work Agenda

1. 221 Lincoln Boulevard -.Commission feels that this tree should be measured out by the Department of Public Works, as it may not be a borough shade tree. If it is determined to be a shade tree, they recommend a 2” dead wood prune and 15% crown thinning and clear wires.
2. 407 Walnut Street – Sean Johnson recommended that this Norway Maple should be removed.
3. 205 Walnut Street – Commission determine that nothing was needed to be done to this tree.
4. 32 Greenbrook Road – Commission feel that this tree has been trimmed extensively by PSE&G and would like to follow up on it in the Spring.
5. 48 Louis Avenue – Commission determined that the tree is healthy and would look at the tree to determine if resident can prune roots to alleviate the sidewalk damage.
6. 539 Howard Avenue- Dan Gitler reported that the tree has extensive girdling and would like to reassess the tree once the leaves have started to appear in the Spring.

### Unfinished Business

- A. Update on Remaining Work from 2020 – The Commission approved the Secretary process a purchase order for the remaining work for 2020 in the amount of \$5,050.
- B. Boltzer Planting – The \$6,300 for planting will be taken from the Tree Replacement Fund. The commission will plant 20 trees, and Boltzer has already received the voucher and begun the process. Dan Gitler will stake out locations

at Haverstick Field, as they would not like to the planting to interfere with the parking at the field that is there during the soccer games.

New Business

- A. Preparation of the Tree Management Plan - Commission will prepare the Community Forestry Management Plan Annual Accomplishment Report for 2020 at the February Meeting. The Commission agreed that this meeting will be held on February 18, 2021 due to the use of sharing remote access with the Board of Health.
- B. CSIP Grant - Commission agreed that they move forward to work on this Grant once the Community Forestry Management Plant Annual Accomplishment Report has been completed. The Commission discussed the tree inventory and cost and explained the importance of receiving the CSIP Grant in order to create a tree inventory so that they can assess the borough trees. Councilman Quinn indicated that he would review this grant further and the Commission will discuss further at the March or April Meeting.
- C. Tree Seedling Spring Order Form – Chairman Bond & Commission discussed ordering 25 seedlings which include: White Flowering Dogwood and Willow Oaks. If unable to get either one of those species, they recommended Red Buds.
- D. Tree City USA – This Application was filed by the Secretary in December, 2020.
- E. Commission discussed the Site Plan for a garage addition for 228 Fairfield Avenue and did not see any reason to make any recommendations, as no trees were on the plans, and requested that the secretary clarify that their input on this residential construction project did not require any input from the Shade Tree Commission.

Mr. Bond 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,  
FEBRUARY 18, 2021 – 7:30 PM  
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

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



