

March 11, 2021
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 December 8, 2020 and amended on February 23, 2021.

Members: Jason Bond
 Dan Gitler
 Sean Johnson (absent)
 Jim Gorman
 Jeff Killian
 Martin Quinn, 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 February 18, 2021 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mr. Gitler moved to approve the February, 2021 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Killian and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Communications - There were no communications to be brought before the Shade Tree Commission for this month.

1. 26 Harris Avenue – Resident called about trimming of trees, but upon measurement of these trees it was determined by the DPW Superintendent that the trees were not borough shade trees.

Work Agenda

1. Follow Up Tree work will be tabled until the May, 2021 Meeting, or earlier if blooming occurs prior to that meeting.
1. Pending Work – Commission is recommending that 2 items on the pending work list be handled at this time. This item include removal of 2 ash trees at the intersection of Cedar Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard in the amount of \$950 and tree work on the 5 trees on the borough right of way at 101 Fairfield Avenue in the amount of \$1425. The secretary will request permission from the Administrator/CFO to process this voucher at this time. All other pending work will be tabled until further notice.

Unfinished Business – (None)

New Business

1. Review of Joint Land Use Board Plans – (Block 353, Lot 1.01 & 1.02 – RG Middlesex) Chairman Bond indicated that there are no recommendations from the Shade Tree Commission on this location at this time.
2. Review of Joint Land Use Board Plans for 140 Union Avenue (gas station) – Commission discussed the plans that were forwarded to them and the following recommendations from the Shade Tree Commission included: (1) Tree protection zone extended to drip line; (2) If any trees are damaged due to the construction, a Licensed Tree Expert shall oversee the work; and (3) If they plant trees the root collars need to be visible and free of defects post planting. These recommendations will be referred to the JLUB.
3. Pending Tree Work – This was discussed in Work Agenda.
4. Stewardship Grant – Commission discussed the Stewardship Grant and the CSIP Grant Application. The Stewardship Grant is a \$10,000 grant that is required and used to get the borough into compliance for the \$30,000 CSIP Grant. Upon receiving the Stewardship Grant, the borough would be required to wait 2 years to apply for the CSIP Grant. Commission feels that they would like to pursue this Stewardship Grant.
5. Amendment to Tree Replacement Fund Ordinance (395-18) – Secretary informed Commission that the Governing Body introduced Ordinance #2027-21 at their March 9, 2021 Meeting which amended the Code of the Borough to increase the amount of contributions that contractors must pay for tree replacement in to the Tree Replacement Fund. This ordinance is set for adoption at the March 23, 2021 Council Meeting. The Commission also discussed that they may want to also look into amending the Tree Replacement Fund in the future to include the use of funds for grant matching and doing a tree inventory in the future. Commissioner Gitler did have an objection to changing the ordinance to expand the use of these funds, as he feels that the Commission would not be honoring our zero net loss with our budget.
6. Commission also discussed an ordinance that is adopted in Freehold where the residents can request a permit and obtain approval to prune or remove a tree on their own, with consent of the Commission. This was discussed and commission will review what is done in Freehold and Summit, and discuss further at a future meeting.

Mr. Gitler 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,
April 8, 2021 – 7:30 PM
REMOTE MEETING

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