

April 8, 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 March 19, 2021.

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

Secretary                    Linda Chismar

Chairman Bond opened the meeting to the public.

Mary McCallen, 433 Fairview Avenue attended the meeting concerning the tree in front of her property that has fallen egg corns, branches falling and also branches damaging her car. She has submitted a claim to the JIF for damage. She cannot park her car under the tree and would like to know who can take care of this matter. She also has 2 elderly parents living there and is concerned that they will fall with the egg corns falling from the tree. Chairman Bond and Mr. Gitler will look at the tree and try to discuss with her when viewing tree.

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

Mr. Gitler a motion to approve the March 11, 2021 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Killian and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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

### Communications

1. 130 Walnut Street – Chairman Bond and Mr. Killian will look at the tree in front of this property to see if it is dead or diseased.
2. 150 Farragut Street – Mr. Gitler will look at the tree that has many dead branches in front of this property.
3. 307 Ashland Road – Mr. Bond will look at the tree that resident feels is dying.

4. 206 Walnut Street – Chairman Bond will look at the tree with low hanging branches over the sidewalk that is in front of this home.
5. 207 Stephenson Avenue – DPW will be having Predator remove the hanging branch.
6. 336 Melrose Avenue – Mr. Johnson will look at the oak tree at the corner of property between Osceola and Melrose Avenue and also the tree in front of this property.
7. 159 Shepherd Avenue – Mr. Johnson will look at the 2 maple trees in front of this property that are dying.
8. 433 Fairview Avenue – This matter was discussed during the public portion of the meeting.
9. 655 Lorraine Avenue – Mr. Gitler will look at the 2 trees on either end of the fence behind this property and behind the Police Department next to the retention pond area.
10. 7 East Wilson Street – Chairman Bond will look at the large tree at the corner of the property (vacant lot) to see if it is dangerous with tree limbs falling.
11. 303 Maple Street – Chairman Bond looked at this tree and is recommending that there is significant dying back of this tree and it will need a 2” prune.
12. 238 B Street – Chairman Bond has recommended that the tree needs to have 2 low branches trimmed over the house and over the street, a 2” prune and clear the service wires.
13. 2 Benart Place – Mr. Killian will look at the sycamore tree on the edge of the road with the overhanging branches.

#### Work Agenda – Follow Up

1. 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. – Mr. Gitler will report back.
2. 443 Runyon Avenue – Commission will check on this tree in the Spring – Chairman Bond will report back.
3. 32 Greenbrook Road – This tree has been trimmed extensively by PSE&G and should be on follow up for Spring.- Chairman Bond will report back.
4. 539 Howard Avenue – Mr. Gitler feels that this tree has extensive girdling and would like to reassess in the Spring.- Mr. Gitler will report back.

#### Work Agenda – Pending Work

1. Commission agreed to process vouchers for 129 Beechwood Avenue, 283 Beechwood Avenue, 340 Runyon Avenue and 700 Mountain Avenue.

Commission Secretary will have Predator reassess the maple at 141 Beechwood Avenue to determine if it should be removal, as it was initially a 2" prune, but a 10 foot limb has cracked on this tree, and it may need to be removed.

### Unfinished Business

1. Ordinance #2027-21 – This Ordinance which amends the fees to replace trees in the Tree Replacement Fund has been adopted by the governing body.
2. Stewardship Grant – Commission discussed both the Resiliency Grant and CSIP Grant and Mr. Gitler agreed to look further into this grant and discuss at the May Meeting. Also, Mr. Gitler and Chairman Bond will be looking for sample RFP proposals to pursue quotes for a tree inventory for the borough.

### New Business

1. Arbor Day Proclamation – This Proclamation was approved by the Commission and they agreed to dedicate the swamp white oak to Hank Bruno at the triangle on Cedar Avenue and Hooker Avenue for Arbor Day. This tree will complete the triangle with 3 trees, of which Hank Bruno planted the first original tree at this location. Mr. Bruno planted trees for Middlesex Borough for many years. The Commission requested that Boltzer, when planting clean up the other 2 trees and fix mulch around the other trees.
2. Tree Seedling Pick Up – Chairman Bond will handle the pick up of these seedlings on April 14, 2021 at Round Valley and they are slated to be planted in the Cap Lane area, after assessing the location.
3. Tree City USA Award – The Borough was recognized for this accomplishment for over 30 years and notification of this accomplishment will be put on the borough website and Facebook page. Commission requested the secretary obtain 3 additional Tree City stickers for borough Tree City signs.
4. Chairman Bond attended the Garden State Tree Conference and received the Urban Community Forestry CEU's needed for State Certification for Shade Tree.
5. Chairman Bond also received accreditation for "Spotted Lanternfly" training and has offered to give the DPW a quick one-hour course in May to inform them about how to spot the lanternfly and possibly control the infestation of these lanternflies.
6. Councilman Quinn notified the Shade Tree Commission that the Army Corp. will be building the levee in the area next to Mountain View Park (formerly Mountain View Diner) and will be removing many trees for the Army Corp. project.
7. The Commission requested that the secretary ask the Administrator if they can handle minor tree work on behalf of the Commission (use of hammer, chisel or hand pruners) and be covered under the borough insurance

Mr. Gitler 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,  
May 13, 2021 – 7:30 PM  
REMOTE MEETING

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