

May 20, 2021
Remote Meeting

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 May 13, 2021.

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

Secretary Linda Chismar

Chairman Bond opened the meeting to the public.

Carol Ann Sangiovanni, 300 John Street called in to report that the tree that is along her patio has seeds that fall and hit them on their patio, therefore they cannot sit on it. They are also falling all over her yard. This property is along North Lincoln on the corner. Mr. Bond agreed to look at concern and advise neighbor when he views the property of his assessment.

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

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the April 8, 2021 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Killian and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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

Communications

1. 421 Edgeworth Street – Mr. Killian will look at the tree in front of this property that resident is requesting be pruned.
2. 300 John Street – Resident attended public portion of meeting.
3. 206 Lincoln Boulevard – Commission agree that this tree needs a crown reduction as needed towards house and driveway.

4. 26 Mead Avenue – Commission agrees that the tree (if you are in front of 26 Mead the last tree on right side of property) needs to be reduced as needed and the tree next to that one needs a 2” prune.
5. 133 Giles Avenue – Mr. Killian will look at tree that resident requested be cut down as it is destroying his sidewalk.
6. 106 Cap Lane – Mr. Bond will look at this tree that resident requested be removed as they are considering installing solar.
7. 300 Beechwood Avenue – Will have DPW remove dead tree on side of property – and resident would like a replacement tree.
8. 151 Shepherd Avenue – Mr. Bond will look at the tree in front of this property and report back.
9. 214 Melrose Avenue – Mr. Killian will look at the tree in front of this property that resident would like removed.
10. 501 Wellington –Mr. Johnson will look at the tree that is in front of the property in front of the stop sign.
11. 304 Walnut Street – Mr. Bond will look at the tree on the end of the driveway on the B Street side of the property and assess.

Work Agenda

1. 130 Walnut Street – Commission agreed to remove the dying honey locust.
2. 150 Farragut Street – Commission agreed that nothing was needed to be done to this tree.
3. 307 Ashland Road – Mr. Bond assessed this tree and felt that a removal was needed.
4. 206 Walnut Street – Mr. Bond assessed this tree and the low hanging branches over the sidewalk should be elevated and a 2” prune done.
5. 336 Melrose Avenue - Mr. Johnson viewed this property and determined that the ash tree should be removed and the pin oak needed a 2” dead wood prune and elevate the limbs over the street and over the house.
6. 159 Shepherd Avenue – Mr. Johnson evaluated these 2 maple trees and determined the 2 maples in front need 2” deadwood prune and the maple on the right facing the house needs the 2 lowest limbs removed over the fence.
7. 433 Fairview Avenue - Commission determined that the 4 lowest branches should be removed and the crown should be cleaned of any dead wood and crossing branches.
8. 665 Lorraine Avenue – Mr. Gitler reported that trees in rear of property next to police station need confirmation that they are within the borough right of way as they are on the homeowners side of the fence. If they are borough trees then the dead stalk needs to be cut down and the others need to a dead wood prune and 2 inch prune.
9. 7 East Wilson – Notified by DPW Superintendent that this is Army Corp. Property.

10. 303 Maple Street – Mr. Bond suggests a 2” prune on this tree
11. 2 Benart Place – Commission agreed to remove the ash tree on the left side of the driveway and the sycamore tree on the edge of the road should have the dead branches removed.

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. Bond 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 – Commission agreed that nothing was needed at this time.

Work Agenda – Pending Work

1. 141 Beechwood Avenue Commission agreed to process vouchers for removal of all 5 maples in the amount of \$4,700.00 when budget is approved and funds are available.
2. 238 B Street – The trimming and pruning of this tree in the amount of \$400.00 is pending funds available.

Unfinished Business

1. Update on Arbor Day Tree – Secretary will check on status of this planting.
2. Update on Tree Seedling Planting – Mr. Killian has the seedlings and will plant with Mr. Bond on Cap Lane in the woods (away from Army Corp. wall) during the upcoming week.
3. Spotted Lanternfly Training – Mr. Bond will contact Mr. Vidal to schedule this training with the DPW.
4. CSIP Grant Update – This matter was tabled as Mr. Gitler was scheduled on researching this grant and the matching funds.
5. RFP for Tree Inventory – Mr. Bond will look at the TCNJ Specifications, but discussed this inventory with Mr. Cowey (Prepared our Original Tree Management Plan) and he feels it is better off doing the entire borough, rather than doing separate zones. We can requests the RFP be broken down to be done both ways.

New Business

1. Financial Disclosure Forms – Reminder for members to file by May 31, 2021.
2. Locations to be fined were noted by a Shade Tree Commissioner – 2 Locations are needed to be addressed: 18 Dayton Ave. and 12 Woodrow Street.

3. The Tree Management Plan must be addressed so that we can proceed with a renewal of the Plan for next year.
4. Would like to consider the Annual Shade Tree Meeting be attended by a DPW representative so that they can be educated on a tree inventory
5. Annual Shade Tree Meeting - 2021

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,
June 10, 2021 – 7:30 PM
REMOTE MEETING

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