

September 9, 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 August 23, 2021.

Members: Jason Bond
 Sean Johnson
 Jim Gorman
 Jeff Killian
 Martin Quinn, Council Representative

Secretary Linda Chismar

Chairman Bond opened the meeting to the public.

Mark Holmes, 524 Melrose Avenue called into the meeting and spoke of the dying tree in the front of his property that has also affected the apron of his driveway. He forwarded in pictures for Shade Tree Commissioners to look at. Chairman Bond indicated that he would go out to look at the tree in question, and would recommend that if it is a removal, he would like to put a replacement tree that would not be affected by the wires.

Barbara Gordon, 328 Howard Avenue indicated that the large tree in front of her property has dead branches and she is afraid that it is going to fall. Also, there are lanternflies in the tree. If it were to be removed, she would take a replacement tree. Chairman Bond will so out to look at the tree.

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

Mr. Bond moved to approve the June 10, 2021 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mr. Gorman moved to approve the June, July & August, 2021 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Killian and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Communications

1. 201 Lincoln Boulevard – Mr. Bond recommended that regarding this tree on corner of Lincoln Boulevard and C Street, he would recommend that Roger reduce the tree and make it smaller.

2. 322 Melrose Avenue – Commission determined at the June Meeting that the 2 ash trees in front of property should be removed.
3. 112 Stephenson Avenue – Mr. Johnson will look at the large oak tree close to the driveway that is dropping branches.
4. 524 Melrose Avenue – This was discussed during the Public Portion of the meeting.
5. 146 Coleman Avenue – Mr. Killian will look at the tree that residents feel are infested with ants.
6. 87 Conover Street – Mr. Killian will look at the two trees in front of the property that are losing branches.
7. 417 Chestnut Street – Mr. Johnson will look at this tree, and confirm if it is dead and a removal.
8. 303 Fairview Avenue (Delaware Ave. side) – Mr. Gorman will inspect the tree that resident feels is infested and a hole is located on the bottom of the tree.
9. 425 Giles Ave. – Commission agreed to reduce crown approximately 10 – 15' to minimize the potential of future storm damage, and also prune out the dead branches 2" in diameter and larger.
10. 424 Giles Ave. – Commission agreed to remove the tree and replace with Zelkova (place on the right side of the front walkway).
11. 206 Chestnut Street – omission agreed to remove and replace with 2 fastigiated swamp white oaks.
12. 501 Decatur Ave. – Mr. Killian and Mr. Johnson will look at the many dead branches and report back.
13. 126 Fifth Street – Mr. Bond will look at trees on the side of this property on green acres to determine if they are dead or diseased.
14. 101 Grandview Avenue – Mr. Bond will go out to property to determine if the tree trunk has fungi and assess.
15. 300 Grant Avenue – Mr. Johnson will go out to look at the tree on the Elmwood Avenue side of the property.
16. 124 Prospect Place – Mr. Bond will go out to look at the tree resident feels is dead in front of this property.
17. 121 Chestnut Street – Mr. Johnson will go out to look at the tree that is hanging low over the sidewalk and in the power lines to assess.
18. 706 Cook Avenue – Mr. Bond will go out to look at the tree resident feels is dead on the side of this property.

19. Between 116 Valley Brook Court and 125 Valley Brook Court – Councilman Quinn's email regarding this tree at the end of First Street needs to be assessed was sent to members on September 10, 2021.
20. 280 Lincoln Boulevard – Mr. Killian will look at the tree leaning on the building.
21. 339 Lorraine Avenue – Mr. Bond will look at the silver oak that has foaming fungus growing on it and assess.
22. 5 Shearn Drive – Mr. Bond will look at the hole on this tree and check if it is decaying.
23. 314 Second Street – Mr. Bond will look at the 4 sycamores in front of this property to determine if they need to be trimmed.
24. 30 C Street – Mr. Bond determined that this tree on the property needs a crown reduction and clear wires.
25. 315 First Street – Mr. Gorman will check the tree in front of this property to see if it needs to be removed for the paving of the driveway.

Work Agenda

1. 501 Wellington Avenue – Commission determined that nothing was needed at this time to be done to the tree.

Unfinished Business

1. Spotted Lanternfly Training – Mr. Bond indicated that he was unable to coordinate this training with the DPW.
2. CSIP Grant Update – Councilman Quinn reported that the CSIP is a matching grant and would need funds to match the grant. He has looked into the NJUCF Sustainable Grant, which would get the borough into compliance for the CSIP Grant, and enable the borough to get funds for the tree inventory.
3. RFP for Tree Inventory – Mr. Bond spoke with Paul Cowey who suggested that it would be more advantageous to do a full tree inventory, rather than splitting up the borough into different districts/zones. Mr. Bond will try to get an RFP for a tree inventory by the end of the year, and hopes to get more information from the NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference.

New Business

1. The 96th Annual Shade Tree Federation Conference will be held on October 21 and 22, and Jason Bond and Jim Gorman would like to attend on October 22, 2021. Hopefully, DPW will be represented on October 21 for needed CEU's for the Tree Management Plan.

2. The Tree Management Plan must be renewed and Mr. Bond will look into the next step of the renewal process for the Plan.
3. 106 Cap Lane – Hazard Tree Evaluation – Mr. Bond and Mr. Johnson will go out to do a Tree Risk Assessment and bring this information to the next meeting for discussion.
4. Meeting Calendar for 2021 – Mr. Gorman made a motion to hold the October 14th meeting remotely due to the pandemic, and switched the November 11, 2021 meeting until November 18, due to the holiday seconded by Mr. Killian and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission. The commission will discuss whether they will continue with remote meetings after the October 14th meeting.
5. Review of Plans for Reagent Chemical, 5 Factory Lane – Commission did not have any input, as there were no trees on the property. Secretary will relay that information to the JLUB.
6. Mr. Bond also discussed that at the last JLUB Meeting the Zoning Officer/Code Enforcer discussed that he questions residents that install a shed, deck or pool in their yard, and if they intend to remove any trees. Other municipalities (Princeton Township, Short Hills, Summit) charge residents if they remove trees to do any renovations in their yard. Councilman Quinn will be investigating this matter.

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,
October 14, 2021 – 7:30 PM
REMOTE MEETING

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