

January 13, 2022
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 10, 2021 and amended on January 6, 2022”

Members: Jason Bond
 Sean Johnson
 Jim Gorman
 Frank Ryan
 Jeff Killian

Council Rep.: Doug Rex

Secretary Linda Chismar

Jim Gorman made a motion to nominate Jason Bond for the Chairman of the Commission for 2022 seconded by Frank Ryan and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Jason Bond made a motion to nominate Sean Johnson for Vice Chairman of the Commission for 2022 seconded by Frank Ryan 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. No comments or questioned were received.

Chairman Bond made a motion to approve the November 18, 2021 and December 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes seconded by Sean Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Chairman Bond moved to accept the November & December, 2021 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Communications

1. 138 Vogel Place - Chairman Bond looked at this ash tree and indicated that this tree needed to be removed and the stump grounded.
2. 208 Greene Avenue – Commission indicated that the Red Maple failed and should be removed and the stump grounded.

3. 204 Greene Avenue – Commission indicated that this tree needs a crown clean and should be reduced as needed.

Work Agenda

4. 440 Cook Avenue – The tree dropped a large branch and when examined by DPW was hollowed out. DPW had Predator remove the tree and take funds from the DPW emergency budget.
5. 125 South Woodland Avenue – This red maple needs a dead wood prune and clearance away from the wires.
6. 87 Conover Street – Jeff Killian will look at this tree and report back to commission.
7. 303 Fairview Avenue (Delaware Ave. side) – Jim Gorman reported that the cherry tree is hollow at the base and hollow in the canopy. He indicated that it should have a 2” prune, unless Roger feels that it is a removal.
8. 315 First Street – This ash tree has had some woodpecker activity and Jim Gorman and Frank Ryan will follow up on it next month.
9. 12 Rutgers Lane – Tree had been already vouchered for pruning.
10. 314 Second Street – Chairman Bond indicated that the DPW should prune the sprouts on the trunk by the driveway on the sycamore tree in front of this property. Secretary advised DPW Superintendent.

Unfinished Business

- A. RFP for Tree Inventory – Chairman Bond will follow upon the estimate from Paul Cowey at the February meeting.
- B. Tree Management Plan Renewal – This Renewal Plan will be completed by the Commission at their February 10, 2022 Commission Meeting.
- C. Potential Ordinance Amendment – Allowing residents to request Shade Tree approval to remove shade trees and for them to pay for the removal – This will be discussed at a future meeting.
- D. Update on dedication of property on Raritan Avenue as a tree arboretum Councilman Rex will address in his Council report and report back at the February 10, 2022 Commission meeting.
- E. 202 Farragut Avenue – This tree was removed due to a miscommunication with the homeowner, DPW Superintendent and Shade Tree Secretary. In the future Commission requested that it be noted on the sign, in the newsletter and on the webpage to remind residents that they can be fined for removing borough shade trees.

New Business

- A. Update on remaining budget for 2021 – At this time there is \$290 left in the 2021 budget and at the recommendation of the Shade Tree Chairman; the secretary has requested \$48,000 for the 2022 Budget.

- B. Tree Care Plan – Commission will review the ordinance that Mayor Madden has composed by reviewing ordinances from numerous towns. He has suggested that the Commission review his proposal, but use all, some or none of his suggestions after they review.
- C. Review of JLUB – Plans for 700 South Avenue – This has been completed and forwarded to the JLUB secretary.
- D. Review of JLUB – Plans for Veolia ES Technical Solutions – Chairman found that there is nothing needed to be done on these plans by the commission.
- E. Review of JLUB – Plans for 534 Drake Avenue – Mr. Buccellato will be coming before the JLUB at the end of the month. Chairman Bond will attend JLUB Meeting and commission feels that the tree in question could be damaged and suggested Chairman Bond recommend what should be done at the meeting.
- F. Review of JLUB – Plans for 256 Lackland Drive East – This has been completed and forwarded to the JLUB secretary.
- G. Update on Tree Planting – Fall planting has been completed and the Governing Body has agreed to have a dedication of the Katsura Tree for John Sweeney at the April 26, 2022 Council Meeting.

Chairman Bond moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Frank Ryan and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 10, 2022 – 7:30 PM
REMOTE MEETING

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

