

February 11, 2022  
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 10, 2021 and amended on January 6, 2022.

Members:                    Jason Bond  
                                  Sean Johnson  
                                  Jim Gorman (absent)  
                                  Jeff Killian  
                                  Frank Ryan  
                                  Douglas Rex, Council 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. Ryan moved to approve the January 13, 2022 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Chairman Bond moved to approve the January, 2022 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Ryan and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

#### Communications

1. 203 South Lincoln – Chairman Bond will look at the tree that is dying in front of this property next to the florist.
2. 412 Main Street – Mr. Ryan will look at the tree in front of this property to determine if it is dangerous.
3. 206 Walnut Street – Chairman Bond and Mr. Ryan will look at the sidewalk that is buckled from roots of a shade tree and report back.
4. 17 Douglas Lane - Mr. Johnson will look at the tree that has bark peeling and limbs falling.

#### Work Agenda

1. 338 North Lincoln – Two maple trees on the Conover side need a dead wood prune.

2. 315 First Street – This ash tree will be monitored and assessed again after it is leafed out in Spring.

#### Unfinished Business

1. RFP for Tree Inventory – Chairman Bond will reach out to the purchasing agent regarding this RFP and follow up at the March Meeting.
2. Tree Management Plan Renewal – Commission completed the renewal of the Tree Management Plan and the secretary will submit.
3. Potential Ordinance Amendment – The Commission will discuss the revision for the ordinance at their March Meeting and will have the Code Enforcer and Mayor attend the April meeting to further discuss with them.
4. Tree Recovery Plan – Commission agreed that they would not participate this year in this give away of tree.
5. Update on dedication of property on Raritan Avenue as a tree arboretum – Councilman Rex discussed this with the Borough Administrator and suggested that Chairman Bond get in touch with the DPW Superintendent to discuss how big an area on Raritan Avenue they would like to dedicate. They questioned if there was a concern of redevelopment in the area and the Chairman will discuss with the Borough Administrator. Councilman Rex indicated that once the area that they would like dedicated is discussed, they will get an ordinance/resolution before council.

#### New Business

1. Update on budget for 2022 – Commission was informed that the Shade Tree Commission received \$10,000 for their temporary budget for 2022.
2. Prioritizing pruning/removals pending – Commission directed the secretary what outstanding removals/pruning should be encumbered for the month.
3. 296 Harris Avenue – This borough tree was removed without Commission approval. Chairman Bond discussed violation with property owner and will discuss further with Code Enforcer Joe Costa.
4. 217 Harris Avenue – This potential borough tree was removed, and resident may have had sewer issues. Because the Superintendent was unable to confirm that this was a borough tree, as it was a pile of chips, no action will be taken.
5. Plaque for John Sweeney – Commission discussed this plaque and the dedication of the tree, which is scheduled at this time for April 26, 2022.
6. 534 Drake Avenue – Mr. Buccellato graded the front of the property that he is working on and Chairman Bond went out and saw damage done to the pin oak. Chairman Bond had a conversation with Mr. Buccellato and he was advised how to proceed with putting soil around the tree and adding a tree protection around the tree. Soil was replaced with fill soil, but not as directed and the tree has been

damaged. Chairman Bond suggests that Mr. Buccellato be fined per Code 395-4 and Commission concurred. The Commission will keep an eye on the tree.

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

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Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY,  
MARCH 10, 2022 – 7:30 PM  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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