

March 11, 2022
Municipal Building

The meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held at the Municipal Building 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 February 15, 2022.

Members: Jason Bond
 Sean Johnson (absent)
 Jim Gorman
 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. Gorman moved to approve the February 10, 2022 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Ryan and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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

Communications

1. 116 Chestnut Street – Mr. Bond will look at the tree in front of this property that is dropping branches.
2. 200 Blackford Avenue – Mr. Gorman and Mr. Ryan will look at the two trees by the driveway that are dying and have branches falling.
3. 124 Prospect Place – Mr. Bond will follow up on the tree in front of the property that is dead.
4. 131 Prospect Place – Mr. Bond and Mr. Ryan will look at the ash tree in front of this property.
5. 206 Walnut Street – Mr. Bond and Mr. Ryan will follow up on the sidewalk that is buckled from roots of a shade tree and report back.
6. 121 Fairfield Avenue – Mr. Killian will look at the tree in front of the property that has branches falling.

Work Agenda

1. 203 South Lincoln Avenue - Mr. Bond and Mr. Ryan indicated that the maple tree that is tagged should be removed and replaced with 2 sycamore trees on the right side of the driveway.
2. 412 Main Street – Mr. Ryan indicated that the pin oak should be trimmed and service wires cleared.
3. 17 Douglas Lane – Commission determined that the Norway maple needs a 2” dead wood prune.

Unfinished Business

1. RFP for Tree Inventory – Chairman Bond did not have any update on this inventory and will follow up.
2. Potential Ordinance Amendment – The Commission decided that they will review this proposed amendment by committee and bring back to the meeting to discuss. At that time the Code Enforcer and Mayor will attend the meeting to further discuss.
3. Update on dedication of property on Raritan Avenue as a tree arboretum – Councilman Rex discussed that he spoke with DPW Superintendent, and Borough Administrator. Mr. Bond mentioned the different classification involved and the maintenance involved. This has been put on the back burner at this time

New Business

1. Update on budget for 2022 – Commission was informed that the Shade Tree Commission is slated to receive a budget of \$45,000 for 2022.
2. 296 Harris Avenue – This borough tree was removed without Commission approval and the Zoning Officer and Shade Tree Chairman will discuss the violation and then move forward with the summons.
3. Cook Avenue JLUB Application, 772 and 776 William Street (Congregation Jehovah’s Witnesses, Revised Plans, 221 Second Street JLUB Application and 440 Market Street JLUB Application were given to Chairman Bond to begin the review of the plans.
4. Plaque for John Sweeney – Commission discussed this plaque and the dedication of the tree, which is scheduled at this time for April 26, 2022.
5. Arbor Day Planting – Commission decided to plant the plant the historic Salem oak seedling that Mr. Bond will be getting from the NJ Forest Service at Round Valley for their Arbor Day celebration at the library, and possibly have a display case in the library with a tree theme for Arbor Day.
6. 534 Drake Avenue JLUB Application – Commission discussed this application that was denied by the JLUB and Joe Costa indicated that when the property

owner comes back with another application it should reflect that the tree needs to be looked at when the application is received and that the tree was compromised and the owner is responsible. Mr. Ryan will speak with Bill Robertson regarding this matter at the next JLUB Meeting.

7. Applications for the Hazardous Tree Identification Seminar sponsored by Rutgers were distributed. All members were offered the opportunity to attend this seminar, and Mr. Ryan has signed up for the class on March 22, 2022.
8. Mr. Bond reported that a removal of a tree was done at 359 Beechwood Avenue (Shephard Ave. side of property). DPW Superintendent indicated that this was not a borough tree.

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

Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY,
APRIL 14, 2022 – 7:30 PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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