

April 21, 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 March 14, 2022.

Members:                    Jason Bond  
                                  Sean Johnson  
                                  Jim Gorman (absent)  
                                  Jeff Killian (absent)  
                                  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 March 10, 2022 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Bond and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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

#### Communications

1. 101 Fairfield Avenue – Mr. Bond and Mr. Ryan will look at the tree that is growing into the driveway on this property.
2. 312 Raphael Avenue - Mr. Bond will look at the two trees in front of this property.
3. 24 Shearn Drive – Mr. Bond will look at the three trees outside of the fence that resident has requested be removed.
4. 224 Green Avenue - Mr. Johnson will look at the tree that it appears has low hanging branches over the street.
5. 400 Bound Brook Road - Mr. Johnson will follow up on the tree on the Pond Avenue side of the property that resident feels is dying.
6. 1108 Dorn Avenue – Mr. Bond will look at tree that resident would like trimmed and also uplifting sidewalk.

7. 121 Fairfield Avenue – Mr. Bond will look at tree that resident feels is causing her plumbing problem.
8. 234 Dorn Avenue – Mr. Bond will look at the dying tree in front of this property.
9. 268 South Lincoln Avenue – Mr Johnson will look at limb hanging over house and concern that tree is decayed.
10. 503 Lincoln Boulevard – Mr. Johnson will look at the 5 trees at this property that has branches falling.
11. 119 Green Avenue – Mr. Johnson will look at the tree that has hanging branch and resident feels it appears dead.

#### Work Agenda

1. 315 First Street –Mr. Johnson will monitor and assess this tree that resident would like trimmed.
2. 116 Chestnut Street – Mr. Johnson will look at the tree in front of this property that is dropping branches..
3. 200 Blackford Avenue – Mr. Gorman reported by email that the trees are actually at 200 South Avenue. There are 2 dead ash trees that should be removed and stump ground. (1 on Blackford side and 1 in front of 200 South Avenue) Replant 2 trees in fall.
4. 124 Prospect Place – Mr. Bond reported that the dead ash tree should be removed and replace with one on the left side of the property and one on the right side of property.
5. 131 Prospect Place – Mr. Bond and Mr. Ryan feel that the big ash should be removed and replaced with a tree on the left side of the property. Also the maple tree should be pruned.
6. 206 Walnut Street – Mr. Bond and Mr. Ryan reported that the sidewalk that was reported buckled from roots should be shaved or possibly add macadam as a ramp.

#### Violations

1. 296 Harris Avenue – This borough tree was removed without Commission approval and the Zoning Officer has issued a summons to this property owner.

#### Unfinished Business

1. RFP for Tree Inventory – Chairman Bond did not have any update on this inventory to date.

2. Shade Tree – Chapter 395 Revisions – Committee Recommendations – This matter was tabled.
3. Update on dedication of property on Raritan Avenue as a tree arboretum – Councilman Rex discussed that he spoke with Joe Costa and he feels that since it has been more than 10 years ago the Commission should be able to plant trees in that area. He requested that a plan of this planting should be send to him to review.
4. Potential Violation 534 Drake Avenue – Buccellato - Commission agreed that a violation should be issued and Chairman will follow up.

#### New Business

2. Update on budget for 2022 – Commission was informed that the Shade Tree Commission is slated to receive a budget of \$45,000 for 2022. Commission agreed at this time to encumber and handle all outstanding tree work that is pending and requested secretary encumber funds.
3. Cook Avenue JLUB Application – This application must be filed with the JLUB prior to any discussion.
4. 772 and 776 William Street – (Congregation Jehovah's Witnesses – Revised Plans – Chairman Bond will follow up with the Board Secretary to get further clarification of this proposal and the revisions.
5. 221 Second Street – Chairman Bond indicated that based upon the plans for the proposed construction, he feels it is impossible to protect or save the two ash trees on the northern side of the property.
6. 400 Market Street – JLUB Application – Chairman Bond reported that the only issue/s here is the tree line on the north side of the property. 1 pin oak and 3 evergreens. Based on the site plans they appear to be on the the property of Lot 14 on High Street. The pin oak may be a Borough tree and should be measured for clarification. Also, he felt a tree protection zone (TPZ), installed to the drip line of the trees, ***shall*** be installed prior to the commencement of construction and enforced by the Borough's code enforcement during the entire project. Any breach of the TPZ may result in a summons or multiple summons dependent on the infraction/s.

That said, the foundation of the proposed house on Lot 17 is approximately 12 feet away from the trunks of two of the evergreen trees. A 3" layer of wood chips and a durable system of mats shall be installed in the drip line of these two trees if equipment machinery is needed in this area to minimize soil compaction and only when necessary for that part of the construction. If no heavy equipment is needed for this area, then the TPZ fencing shall remain in place.

Any roots encountered for the digging of the foundation of Lot 17 shall be properly cut and overseen by a licensed tree expert in the state of New Jersey.

Because this area is prone to flooding, as per supplied map, any tree not being removed will be helpful in mitigating flood potential.

7. PSE&G Contact Information Regarding Tree Work in the Borough has been emailed to all commissioners.
8. Arbor Day Proclamation – This was executed by Chairman Bond. A display case will be set up in the Library for the Month of June regarding Trees and Arbor Day. The Salem Oak sapling will be planted on Friday, August 29, 2022 for Arbor Day.

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

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Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY,  
MAY 12, 2022 – 7:30 PM  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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