

May 12, 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
 Frank Ryan (absent)
 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. Bond moved to approve the April 21, 2022 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Killian and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Chairman Bond, along with all the members present reviewed the April, 2022 Finance Report.

Communications

1. 100 Farragut Avenue – Mr. Johnson will look at the tree that has hanging branches, along with branches close to the electrical wires.
2. 125 Barbara Place - Mr. Bond will look at the tree that has the bark coming off of the roots in front of this property.
3. 536 Voorhees Avenue - Mr. Killian will look at the 2 trees in the front of this property and assess.
4. 69 Greenbrook Road – Mr. Bond will look at tree that resident feels is dead in front of the property.
5. 48 Louis Avenue – Mr. Bond reported on the tree lifting the sidewalk in front of this property and feels that the 9 foot section of sidewalk could be shaved – do not cut the tree roots.

Work Agenda

1. 101 Fairfield Avenue – Commission agreed that the tree growing into the driveway is healthy and nothing is needed.
2. 312 Raphael Avenue – Mr. Bond reported that nothing was needed to be done to the two trees in front of this property.
3. 24 Shearn Drive – Mr. Bond will contact homeowner to discuss the three trees that are uplifting the sidewalk.
4. 224 Green Avenue – Mr. Johnson reported that the linden oak's lower limbs should be elevated and remove the limbs above wires.
5. 400 Bound Brook Road – Mr. Johnson reported that the ash tree on the Pond Avenue side of the property should be removed.
6. 1108 Dorn Avenue – Mr. Bond reported that tree that is uplifting sidewalk should not have roots trimmed, but the sidewalk should be shaved.
7. 121 Fairfield Avenue – Mr. Killian and Mr. Bond will assess this tree to determine what should be done.
8. 234 Dorn Avenue – Secretary will have the dying tree in front of this property measured by DPW. This was measured and it is not a borough tree.
9. 268 Lincoln Avenue – Mr. Johnson reported that the ash tree should be removed. The silver maple next to the ash has decayed stem which needs to be removed.
10. 503 Lincoln Boulevard – Mr. Johnson reported that the 5 London planes on McKinley Ave. need a 2" dead wood prune.
11. 500 Voorhees Ave. - Mr. Johnson reported that the 4 trees on the McKinley side of the property need a 2" dead wood prune.
12. 119 Green Avenue – The Norway maple at this property should be removed.
13. 116 Chestnut Street – Mr. Bond reported that a 2" prune is needed and low branches should be removed on the tree in front of property. The pin oak on the corner of the property is not a borough tree.
14. 315 First Street – Mr. Johnson reported that the two ash trees on this property need to be removed.
15. 200 Greene Avenue – The Norway Maple on this property needs a 2" dead wood prune.
16. 115/117 Fairfield Avenue – The Ash Tree between these properties needs to be removed.

Violations

1. 296 Harris Avenue – Chairman Bond will follow up on this summons with the Zoning Officer.
2. 57 Washington Avenue – Summons issued.
3. 534 Drake Avenue – Mr. Johnson made a motion to issue a violation to this property owner, seconded by Mr. Killian and carried by a unanimous vote of members present. .

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 until the September Meeting.
3. Update on dedication of property on Raritan Avenue as a tree arboretum – Mr. Bond will follow up with Joe Costa on this matter.
4. 772 and 776 William Street (Congregation Jehovah's Witnesses – Revised Plans) – Mr. Bond attended JLUB Meeting last night and the revisions of these plans including extending the parking lot was approved.

New Business

1. Update on budget for 2022 – The 2022 budget was reviewed, approval was given to encumber the outstanding items that are on the pending list. Also, the governing body adopted the 2022 Municipal Budget on May 10, 2022, and the Commission should be receiving the remaining Shade Tree Funds shortly.
2. Update on Arbor Day Planting – The Salem Oak seedling was planted in front of the Library by Chairman Bond, Frank Ryan, Mayor Madden and DPW Superintendent Vidal on Arbor Day, April 29, 2022. This planting is documented on the borough website. The Shade Tree secretary will discuss possibly having the DPW make some sort of name plate commemorating this planting.

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

Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY,
JUNE 9, 2022 – 7:30 PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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