

June 10, 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
 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. Gorman moved to approve the May 12, 2022 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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

Communications

1. 420 High Street – Commission determined that the black locust needs a 2” prune and Predator will also check the tree prior to pruning. DPW will measure to confirm borough tree.
2. 206 Walnut Street – Sean Johnson will check on the tree that resident is concerned is pulling up sidewalk and there are potential sewer issues.
3. 412 Cook Avenue – Commission determined that this small maple with a crack should be removed.
4. 536 Voorhees Avenue – Commission determined that this tree needs a dead wood prune of the 2 locust trees, a crown reduction and clear service wries.
5. 106 Farragut Street – Commission determines that the lowest branch towards the street needs to be removed, a 2” prune is needed and the lowest lateral towards the driveway needs to be removed.

6. 448 Voorhees Ave. – Commission would like the 2 ash trees across from this address removed and replaced with London planes.
7. 5 Dunlap Place – Mr. Bond will look at the tree at this location that resident feels is infested with carpenter ants.
8. 33 Greenbrook Road – Commission looked at the silver maple on the Whitney Drive side of the property closest to the driveway and feel that a dead wood prune is needed.
9. 30 Fisher Avenue – Commission reported that the dead maple in front of this property should be removed.
10. 56 Ramsey Road – Commission reported that the dead ash in front of this property should be removed.
11. 401 Market Street – Commission reported to remove dead ash.
12. 201 Green Avenue – Commission will go out to look at the oak that has the canopy declining.

Work Agenda

1. 24 Shearn Drive – Commission determined that the Mulberry on the Shearn Drive side of the property should be removed and 2 trees on Douglas that are tagged should be removed.
2. 121 Fairfield Avenue – Commission agreed to remove the tree in front of this property.
3. 100 Farragut Avenue – Commission determined that the pin oak should have a 2” prune and service wires should be cleared.
4. 125 Barbara Place – commission determined that a 2” prune should be done on 2 trees.
5. 536 Voorhees Avenue – See Communications
6. 69 Greenbrook Road – Commission determined that the ash tree should 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 – Follow up with Zoning Officer regarding status of this violation.

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. The Commission is also looking to include fines for contractors. Subcommittee will meet during the summer.
3. Update on dedication of property on Raritan Avenue as a tree arboretum – Commission discussed that they should get together with DPW Superintendent and design a plan to move forward with this arboretum. This plan could then be forwarded to Joe Costa.

New Business

1. Update on budget for 2022 – The 2022 budget was reviewed, approval was given to encumber the outstanding items that are quoted on the pending list in the order that they are listed based upon date.
2. Commission discussed amending their meeting notice to reflect their meetings to begin at 7PM.
3. The Library display case for Arbor Day was completed and on display for the month of June.

Mr. Gorman 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,
SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 – 7:30 PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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