

September 8, 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 and June 10, 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. Johnson moved to approve the June 9, 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 June, July & August, 2022 Finance Report.

Communications

1. 348 – 350 Drake Avenue – Commission determined that this tree between the properties needs a 1” prune at this time.
2. 500 Beechwood Avenue – The tree on the Lucia Avenue side of the property needs to be removed and the plum tree on this side of the property is not a borough tree.
3. 203 Maple Street – Commission feels that this tree needs to be removed.
4. 142 Grant Avenue – The ash tree on the corner of Grant and Hazelwood needs to be removed. The red oak needs the hangers to be cleaned up and the pin oak on the Hazelwood Avenue side needs to be removed.
5. 100 Lincoln Boulevard – Jeff Killian will look at the large branches laying on the roof of the building.

6. 34 Orchard Road – Jason Bond will look at the tree in front of her property that is dropping sticky things from her tree.
7. 338 North Lincoln Boulevard – Sean Johnson will look at the tree on the side of the property that she feels needs to be pruned.
8. 48 Louis Avenue – Jason Bod will look at the tree that has sidewalk buckling due to the roots of a borough shade tree.
9. 210 Cook Avenue – Jeff Killian will look at the tree on the corner of Fisher that has branches overhanging street and needs to be pruned.
10. 115 Coleman Street – Jason Bond will look at the tree that resident feels is infested with ants.
11. 218 Walnut Street (B Street Side) – Frank Ryan will look at tree with hanging branches over wires and does not appear to be healthy.
12. 415 Ashland Road – Jason Bond and Frank Ryan will evaluate the 3 pine trees at the end of this driveway.
13. 218 Appian Street – Jason Bond will look at the tree that resident feels is dead.
14. 225 Melrose Avenue – Sean Johnson will look at tree in front of this house that resident feels is dead.
15. 318 Edgeworth Street – This dead tree that Jason Bond viewed will be removed and replaced with 2 trees.
16. 113 Howard Avenue – Commission is recommending a ground limb elevation for this tree.
17. 117 Fairfield Avenue – Sean Johnson will look at the tree that resident feels is dying.
18. 24 C Street – Frank Ryan will look at this tree that has limbs hanging over the power lines.
19. 113 Grant Avenue (corner of Grant/Beechwood) This is an Ash Tree and secretary will check with Lenny Vidal if it is a borough tree. NOT A BOROUGH TREE.
20. 313 First Street – Jeff Killian will look at the tree on the corner of First Street and Fulton and report to commission.

Work Agenda

1. 206 Walnut Street – Sean Johnson will follow up on the tree that resident is concerned is pulling up sidewalk and potential sewer issues.
2. 5 Dunlap Place – Jason Bond will follow up on the tree at this location that resident feels is infested with carpenter ants.

3. 201 Greene Avenue – Jason Bond and Frank Ryan will look at the tree that its canopy is declining.

Violations

(Secretary will update commission on status of violations below)

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 – The Commission agreed to start review of this ordinance and complete during the Shade Tree Commission regular meetings.
3. Update on dedication of property on Raritan Avenue as a tree arboretum – Commission discussed and decided that they will begin to plant trees with the intention of this becoming a future arboretum.

New Business

1. Fall Planting – Secretary will be sending out quote documentation to Commission tomorrow to provide quotes for the planting of 25 trees which include: Hackberry, Red Maple, Sycamore, Zelcova, London Plane and Dogwood.
2. JLUB Application – Facciponti (585 Union Avenue) – Chairman will review and discuss at next meeting.
3. JLUB Application – Veolia ES Technical Solutions LLC – Chairman will review and discuss at next meeting.
4. JLUB Application – 403 E Street – Chairman will review and discuss at next meeting.
5. JLUB Application – Baekeland Ave. (Block 356, Lot 1) – Chairman will review and discuss at next meeting.
6. Shade Tree Federation Conference in Cherry Hill on October 13 and 14th will be circulated to commissioners tomorrow and they will advise secretary if interested in attending.
7. Pesticide Applications to certain trees was discussed and quotes for this service would need to be provided to secretary prior to initiating this service to the borough trees.

8. Discussion on potentially changing the Tree Ordinance to set a certain amount for a tree violation rather than a “fine up to \$1,000” whereby a Judge would make the determination. Commission will review ordinances from other municipalities to see if their tree violations are set at a certain amount.

Mr. 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,
OCTOBER 13, 2022 – 7:30 PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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