

November 17, 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 (absent)
 Jim Gorman (late)
 Jeff Killian
 Frank Ryan
 Douglas Rex, Council Representative

Secretary Linda Chismar

Chairman Bond opened the meeting to the public.

Eric Udsen, 201 Fairfield Avenue attended meeting and expressed his concern about tree branches that are hanging over yard and electric wires. Concerned that these branches are hazard if they break his chimney and damage the house. Chairman Bond will look at Mr. Udsen’s concern and a decision will be made at the December 8, 2022 Commission Meeting.

Seeing that there were no further public comments, Chairman Bond closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mr. Ryan moved to approve the September 8, 2022 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 September & October, 2022 Finance Report.

Communications

1. 131 Cook Ave. – Mr. Bond will look at the shade tree that appears to be dying.
2. 805 Drake Avenue – Mr. Ryan will assess the tree in front of this property.
3. 56 Ramsey Road – Mr. Ryan will look at this tree that the DPW Superintendent requested an inspection.
4. 521 Giles Ave. – Mr. Bond will look at the tree that has the resident concerned about roots infesting her pipes.

5. 111 Grove Street – Mr. Bond and Mr. Ryan will look at the tree in front of this property that is in the wires.
6. 512 Fairview Avenue – Mr. Bond and Mr. Ryan will look at the 3 trees in front of this property and evaluate.
7. 23 Washington Avenue – Mr. Killian will look at the tree in front of this property.
8. 316 Raphael Avenue – Mr. Bond will look at the tree that resident feels has dropping branches.
9. 54 Delaware Ave. – Mr. Bond looked at this tree and determined that the large pin oak at the corner should have a prune of the dead branches 2” in diameter and larger and service wires cleared. The multi-stemmed Norway maple next to it needs a crown clean of the dead branches 2” in diameter.
10. 210 Second Street – Mr. Killian will look at the tree in front of this property that resident wanted trimmed.
11. 201 Fairfield Avenue – Mr. Udsen attended the public portion of the meeting.
12. 121 Pond Avenue (Runyon side) – Resident reported that the tree is lifting the sidewalk and road and concerned because he wants to pave his driveway. Mr. Bond and Mr. Ryan will assess.
13. 100 Lincoln Boulevard – Mr. Killian reported that the pear trees laying on the roof of the building and over the walkway need a crown reduction.

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 has canopy declining.
4. 34 Orchard Road – Jason Bond will look at the tree in front of her property that is dropping sticky things from her tree.
5. 338 North Lincoln Boulevard – Sean Johnson will look at the tree on the side of the property that she feels needs to be pruned.
6. 48 Louis Avenue – Jason Bond will look at the tree that has sidewalk buckling due to the roots of a borough shade tree.
7. 210 Cook Avenue – Jeff Killian reported that the tree at 204 Fisher Ave. needs a dead wood prune and elevate trees.

8. 115 Coleman Street – Jason Bond reported that nothing was needed to be done with this tree.
9. 218 Walnut Street (B Street Side) – Frank Ryan will look at tree with hanging branches over wires and does not appear to be healthy.
10. 415 Ashland Road – Jason Bond and Frank Ryan reported that 2 trees on the right of way should be removed.
11. 218 Appian Street – Jason Bond will look at the tree that resident feels is dead.
12. 225 Melrose Avenue – Sean Johnson will look at tree in front of this house that resident feels is dead.
13. 117 Fairfield Avenue – Sean Johnson will look at the tree that resident feels is dying.
14. 24 C Street – Frank Ryan will look at this tree that has limbs hanging over the power lines.
15. 313 First Street – Jeff Killian reported that the 2 ash trees on the Fulton Road side of property should be removed. This area could use a replacement tree.

Unfinished Business

1. RFP for Tree Inventory – Chairman Bond reported that Paul Cowey suggested that a tree inventory done for the entire town, instead of one area at a time. Commission discussed potentially including into the capital budget \$15,000 for a tree inventory or if a grant writer is hired, have them look for grants to be used for this purpose.
2. Shade Tree – Chapter 395 Revisions – Committee Reviewed Section 395-1 of this chapter and were in agreement to keep as it is presently written.
3. Update on dedication of property on Raritan Avenue as a tree arboretum – Commission discussed and decided that this should be removed from the Agenda as they can plant trees, but cannot dedicate this property.

New Business

1. Fall Planting – Boltzer Landscaping submitted a quote for planting and additional quotes were requested from Balaney Contracting, LLC and Four Oaks Saw Works. Both Balaney Contracting, LLC and Four Oaks Saw Works did not respond to the quote request. Commission agreed to plant 25 trees which include: Hackberry, Red Maple, Sycamore, Zelcova, London Plane and Dogwood. Funds in the amount of \$9,875 will be encumbered from the Tree Replacement Fund.
2. Budget Update – Commission advised Secretary what work they requested encumbered out of the remaining 2022 Shade Tree Budget.

3. JLUB Application – Baekeland Ave. (Block 356, Lot 1) – Chairman will review and discuss at next meeting.
4. JLUB Application – 730 South Avenue (Block 267, Lot 3) – Chairman will review and discuss at next meeting.
5. JLUB Application – MB1 Application will be reviewed by Chairman Bond.
6. Mailer to be sent to Tree Contractors – Chairman Bond will prepare a flyer within the next few months to advise local tree contractors regarding fines being imposed to the homeowners for the removal of shade trees on the right of way.
7. JLUB Application – 534 Drake Avenue – Remind applicant that trees need to be protected by certified arborist.
8. Frank Ryan reported the planting of purple plums in front of Jilly Liquors and that these were not approved by the Shade Tree Commission when reviewing plans. Commission would like to make suggestions on what should be planted when reviewing all plans submitted to the JLUB.
9. Streetscape Project – Chairman discussed his notification of the removal of trees on Route 28. He has been advised that these removals were due to the Streetscape Project. Chairman would like better communication with the necessary boards and commissions prior to projects being done to make for a more effective and informed outcome. Also the chain of command within the commission should be followed. The Chairman will prepare an email to be sent to the engineer, administrator, and police to confirm that the 200 year old sycamore be protected when this project begins.

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

Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 8, 2022 – 7PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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