

January 12, 2023

The Reorganization Meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held on the above date at the Middlesex Borough Hall and called to order by Secretary Linda Chismar:

“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 Annual Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on December 12, 2022”

Members: Jason Bond
 Sean Johnson (absent)
 Jim Gorman
 Frank Ryan
 Jeff Killian

Council Rep.: Doug Rex

Secretary Linda Chismar

Jim Gorman made a motion to nominate Jason Bond for the Chairman of the Commission for 2023 seconded by Frank Ryan and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Jason Bond made a motion to nominate Sean Johnson for Vice Chairman of the Commission for 2022 seconded by Jim Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Chairman Bond opened the meeting to the public.

Bruce DeRoma, 428 First Street attended the meeting, and he indicated that he has been trying to get his apron repaired because it is damaged from a borough tree. Mr. DeRoma is concerned because the curb and gutter sink down. This complaint began with the prior Administrator and he had been discussed with the prior DPW Superintendent, along with the present Superintendent who have witnessed the concern. Mr. DeRoma would just like to fix his driveway.

Chairman Bond indicated that he was out there Saturday to see this concern and indicated the roots underneath have caused damage and the road and driveway are buckling. The tree resides in front of 424 First Street and he questioned if the neighbor was on board for removal. Mr. DeRoma requested not to have a tree planted in front of his property. The Commission will discuss the removal with the neighbor and will also check on the silver maple tree.

Seeing that there was no further public participation, Chairman Bond closed the public portion of the meeting.

Chairman Bond made a motion to approve the December 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes as amended seconded by Jeff Killian and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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

Communications

1. 8 Dunlap Place – Commission agreed to trim the sweet gum and prune lower limbs, clean and clear wires. Also clean the red maple on the street side of the property.
2. Tree on the corner of Oak and Ashland – borough tree that appears to have dead limbs that resident requesting a trimming – this will be discussed next meeting.
3. 21 Starlit Drive – Commission agreed to remove the Norway Maple.
4. 412 Chestnut Street – Commission agreed to remove this tree in front of property.
5. 201 Fairfield Avenue – Commission agreed that nothing is needed on the 2 trees on the fence side of this property.
6. 805 Drake Avenue – Mr. Bond will go out to look at the property.
7. 428 First Street – This was discussed in the Public Portion of the meeting.
8. 345 Cook Avenue – Mr. Bond and Mr. Gorman will go out to look at the tree in front of property that has a large branch that fell off and assess.
9. 351 Beechwood Avenue – Mr. Ryan will assess the tree in front of this property.

Work Agenda

1. 32 Washington Avenue – the 2 black locusts on the Nelson side of the property must be removed. Replace with 2 trees.
2. 206 Walnut Street – Mr. Johnson will follow up on this younger oak tree and report back.

Unfinished Business

- A. Shade Tree – Chapter 395 Revisions – this will be tabled until the February meeting.
- B. Update on Fall Planting – Secretary will follow up with Jeff Boltzer as to status – Jeff Boltzer informed secretary that the planting was complete.
- C. Budget Update – Secretary reported that there is \$215.00 left in the 2022 Budget.
- D. 2023 Budget/Capital Budget/Tree Management Plan – Commission agreed to request \$55,000 in the Shade Tree Budget. Also, they would like to include \$20,000 in the Capital Budget for a Tree Inventory. The secretary also discussed

- with Bruno Associates (Grant writers) and Borough CFO that there are potential grants that we could have Bruno Associates apply for to finance a portion of the tree inventory.
- E. The Tree Management Plan will be completed at the February 9, 2023 Meeting.
 - F. JLUB Application New Hope Family Enterprises, LLC – Lincoln Boulevard – Recommendations were to replace Thuja Occidentalis with green giant arborvitea. All planted trees shall have visible root collars and free of defects to pass inspection.
 - G. JLUB Application – MB1 Application – this is pending at this time.
 - H. JLUB Application 534 Drake Avenue – Recommendations were (1) 2 more trees at rear; (2) street tree at left lot; and (3) root collars on planted trees shall be visible and free of defects to pass inspection.
 - I. Follow up on Mailer for Tree Contractors – this will be discussed at the February 9, 2023 Meeting.
 - J. Request to hire contractor to fertilize tree roots – This will be discussed at the February 9, 2023 meeting.

New Business

- A. Commission discussed the order from the NJ Forest Service Nursery regarding the Barefoot & Tube Seedling order. They agreed to order 75 trees of bare root seedlings and cap it at \$125.00. They will advise me what they would like to order in the next few weeks.
- B. JLUB Application 262 Lackland Drive East – Only concern was to plant street trees if allowed.

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

Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 9, 2023 – 7 PM

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