

April 13, 2023

The Meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held on the above date at the Middlesex Borough Hall and called to order by Chairman Jason Bond with the following comments:

“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
 Jim Gorman
 Frank Ryan
 Jeff Killian

Council Rep.: Doug Rex

Secretary Linda Chismar

Chairman Bond opened the meeting to the public.

Bruce DiRoma, 428 First Street attended the meeting and mentioned that he would like to repave his driveway and there is a healthy tree on his neighbor's property that he feels is causing his problems in his driveway. Mr. DiRoma insists that this tree root problem under his driveway is effecting his driveway/curb/gutter and causing street issues (buckling) and would like to know how this should be handled. Commission recommends that this matter be addressed with the borough attorney at this time.

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

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the March 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Ryan and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Chairman Bond, along with all the members present reviewed the March, 2023 Finance Report.

Communications

1. 429 Melrose Avenue – Mr. Johnson will look at the tree in front of this property that resident feels is dead.
2. 112 Giles Avenue – Chairman Bond will look at the tree in front of this property that resident feels needs to be trimmed.
3. 504 Decatur Avenue – Mr. Killian will look at the tree that resident would like trimmed and secretary will confirm that it is a shade tree. If borough tree, this

- tree should be trimmed and service wires cleared. DPW indicated that this is NOT A BOROUGH TREE.
4. 405 Chestnut Avenue – Mr. Johnson reported that the dead ash tree in front of this property should be removed.

Work Agenda

1. 5 Dunlap Place – Mr. Johnson feels that nothing is needed on this tree.
2. 564 Ashland Road – Mr. Ryan and Chairman Bond will look at the tree in front and tree on the side of this property that resident feels needs to be pruned.
3. 206 Walnut Street – Mr. Johnson feels that nothing is needed on this tree.
4. 428 First Street – Chairman Bond was unable to speak with neighbor but tree in question is healthy. Resident feels that it is causing damage to the curb and street. This concern will be sent to the Borough Attorney to review and advise what is needed based upon the current borough code.
5. Tree on the corner of Oak and Ashland – Mr. Ryan will go out to look at the borough tree that appears to have dead limbs that resident requested to be trimmed.
6. 351 Beechwood Avenue – This tree is not a borough tree.
7. 717 Hazelwood Avenue – Chairman Bond will go out to look at the 2 trees on the corner of Raphael and Hazelwood that were requested to be pruned.

Follow Up

1. 131 Cook Avenue – Chairman Bond will look at the red oak and assess.
2. 34 Orchard Road (Next to driveway) – Commission will assess next month.
3. 218 Walnut Street (B Street side) – Mr. Johnson will look at the tree with hanging branches over wires and assess.

Violations

296 Harris Avenue – Removal done without approval. Chairman Bond will follow up with Code Enforcement.

57 Washington Avenue – Will follow up with regard to a summons issued.

Unfinished Business

- A. Shade Tree – Chapter 395 Revisions – this was reviewed by the Commission and they have now completed Sections 395-1 – 395-4. Only changes are to remove Section 395-3 Fees and move the line to Section 395-2 Permit required as “E.No fee shall be required for issuance of a shade tree permit. A shade tree permit must be approved by the Shade Tree Commission”.

New Business

- A. Planting of Redbud & Northern Red Oak Tube Seedlings – The boxes of these tube seedlings were ordered and Chairman Bond will be picking them up in April. Commission discussed planting and will be including the Girl Scout Troop that offered to participate in this planting. The Commission will reach out to them for a date to plant.
- B. Budget Update – Commission agreed to encumber the funds for all outstanding plantings that are listed.
- C. Girl Scout Request for Planting – Secretary will reach out to them to offer dates to plant.
- D. Dedication of Tree on April 25, 2023 – This tree will be planting for Arbor Day in Memory of John Sweeney prior to the Council Meeting.
- E. Arbor Day Proclamation – April 28, 2023 – Chairman Bond executed the Proclamation declaring Arbor Day April 28, 2023.

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,
May 11, 2023 – 7 PM

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