

May 11, 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. Seeing that there was no public participation, Chairman Bond closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the April 13, 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 April, 2023 Finance Report.

Communications

1. 153 Vogel Place – Mr. Johnson will look at the tree in front of this property that is dead.
2. 246 D Street – Mr. Bond will look at the dead shade tree in front of this property.
3. 149 Vogel Place – Mr. Johnson will look at the tree in front of this property and assess.
4. 7 Wells Place – Mr. Bond will look at the tree in front of this house and assess.
5. 400 Main Street – Mr. Killian will look at the tree in front of this property and assess.
6. 26 Mead Place – Mr. Bond looked at this tree and wants the tree in front of this property cleaned up and reduced
7. 9 Lauri Lane – Mr. Bond and Mr. Ryan will look at the tree in front of this property that resident feels needs 3 dead branches removed.
8. 437 Runyon Ave. – Mr. Bond and Mr. Ryan will look at the tree with the large branch that fell off the tree in front of this property.
9. 312 Raphael Street – Commission discussed the sewer issue that happened at this location. DPW put a camera through these lines and there were roots in the

main sewer line. Mr. Bond will reach out to Lenny Vidal to negotiate potential removal. The Borough is not responsible for the sewer line.

Work Agenda

1. 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.
2. 428 First Street – The Borough Engineer went out to meet with the neighbor of this property and indicated that the tree was in good health, and that homeowner had already cut some of the roots crossing his driveway. The borough engineer informed the homeowner that after discussions with the DPW the Borough should be applying for a DOT Grant for First Street and that they could address his concerns with the curb at that time. At this time, nothing further is needed to be done.
3. 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.
4. 717 Hazelwood Avenue – The 3 pin oaks need a 2” prune on the corner of Raphael and Hazelwood.
5. 429 Melrose Avenue – Commission determined that the ash tree must be removed.
6. 112 Giles Avenue – This tree will be elevated over the road and sidewalk of this property and pruned by the DPW.

Follow Up

1. 131 Cook Avenue – Chairman Bond reported the tree needs to have a cleanup and 1” prune.
2. 34 Orchard Road (Next to driveway) – Commission will assess next month.
3. 218 Walnut Street (B Street side) – Mr. Johnson reported that the 2 pin oaks on the B Street side should be measured and if borough trees need a 2” dead wood prune and the red maple needs a 2” dead wood prune.- 2 PIN OAKS MEASURED AND NOT BOROUGH TREES.

Violations

296 Harris Avenue – Payment of \$133.00 made for removal of tree.

57 Washington Avenue – Payment of \$283.00 made for removal of tree.

Pending Work

7. 111 Grove Street – Mr. Bond will mark the tree and then DPW will go out to see if this is a borough tree.

8. 121 Pond Avenue (Runyon side) – Commission agreed to remove the tree lifting the sidewalk and replace with 2 trees.
9. 405 Chestnut Avenue – Remove (\$350.00)

Unfinished Business

- A. Shade Tree – Chapter 395 Revisions – this was tabled until the June 8, 2023 Meeting for discussion.

New Business

- A. Planting of Redbud & Northern Red Oak Tube Seedlings – The Girl Scout Troop 60509 took part in planting these seedlings on Raritan Avenue. Ms. Zaccone relayed that the troop had a great time learning, digging, planting and mulching and that the girls learned information on planting. She thanked the Commission for giving them the opportunity to attend this planting and looks forward to future tree plantings.

The Commission also discussed the tube seedlings and that the seedlings will be reconsidered in the future as they lost a lot of them due to poor shipping and there is a concern that the seedlings that were planted will grow.

Also, Mr. Bond and Mr. Ryan will reach out Councilman Dessino and Lenny Vidal regarding watering of these seedling, or leaving water boxes, and Shade Tree Commissioners will water these seedlings.

- B. Budget Update – Commission reviewed the budget numbers listed on the Finance Report.
- C. Dedication of Tree for Arbor Day – This tree was planted and will be dedicated to John Sweeney for Arbor Day.
- D. Update on Violation Payments – Commission discussed if they could have the ordinance amended so that the violations would be increased, as the cost of a replacement tree has increased tremendously. Commission also discussed updating Code Enforcement regarding the price of a replacement tree.
- E. Library Display Case – Commission discussed having the display case for the Shade Tree Commission in the Library once again this year for the month of June, 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,
June 8, 2023 – 7 PM

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