

October 19, 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 Vice Chairman Sean Johnson 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 Special Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on October 12, 2023”

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

Council Rep.: Doug Rex

Secretary Linda Chismar

Vice Chairman Johnson opened the meeting to the public.

Clare LeVourne, 809 Grandview Street discussed the planting of trees in town and also shared information regarding the planting of 3,000 trees in Columbus, Ohio. She discussed the grant that is available through the Lions Club of Scotch Plains which has a 25% match. She would like to push the Community Garden and obtain trees via a grant to be an incentive for the public.

Ms. LeVourne indicated that she will send her information to the Shade Tree Secretary to forward to Commission members.

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

Mr. Gorman made a motion to approve the September 14, 2023 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Killian and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Vice Chairman Johnson, along with all the members present reviewed the September, 2023 Finance Report.

Communications

1. 204 Fisher Avenue – Commission agreed to remove the dead maple.
2. 570 Ashland Road – 3 trees were removed by a contractor. One was a borough tree but was definitely dead. Commission will discuss further at the November Meeting.

3. Tree on Corner of Rt. 28 & Orchard – Vice Chairman Johnson will look at the tree and assess.
4. Tree on Route 28 in front of 601 Bound Brook Road – This is a dead sycamore and business owner has indicated that he will pay for removal of this tree. It is located on the State Highway. Mr. Ryan will look at this tree and the secretary will check with the Police Department for contact information.
5. 710 Williams Street – Mr. Gorman will go out to look at the tree at this location.
6. 28 Edwards Street – Commission agreed to have this tree trimmed as recommended by the DPW Superintendent.

Work Agenda

1. 512 Walnut Street – Mr. Bond noted that this maple tree should have reduced overextended branches to minimize risk of storm damage.
2. 303 Melrose Avenue – Mr. Killian reported that this pin oak should have a dead wood prune.
3. 221 Lincoln Boulevard – Mr. Gorman reported that this Bradford pear is ok and nothing is needed.
4. 210 Walnut Street – Mr. Bond noted that this half dead maple tree should be removed.
5. 564 Ashland Road – Mr. Bond noted that this tree has bacterial leaf scorch and the oak should be removed.
6. Tree on the corner of Oak and Ashland – Mr. Bond will go out to look at the borough tree that appears to have dead limbs that resident requested trimmed.
7. 206 Walnut Street – Mr. Bond noted that this oak has the beginning symptoms of bacterial leaf scorch and nothing should be done at this time.
8. 9 Lauri Lane – Mr. Bond reported that that oak tree has bacterial leaf scorch and should be removed.

Follow Up

1. 12 Center Place – This is an ash tree that Commission will recheck in the spring.

New Business

1. Budget Update – Commission reviewed the budget numbers listed on the Finance Report and reported that removal of 541 Howard Ave. and 328 Seneca Ave. (ash trees) should be removed. Mr. Gorman will follow up to see if other pending tree work includes ash trees and notify secretary to also encumber funds for those addresses.
2. Itemize tree removals – Commission agreed to encumber the items above.
3. NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference – October 26-27 – Mr. Johnson and Mr. Bond will be attending this meeting. The DPW Superintendent and a DPW member will also be attending.
4. JLUB Plans 2023 – 004 Hamamatsu Corporation – Mr. Bond noted that these are preliminary plans and nothing for the shade tree at this time.
5. NJUCF Stewardship Grant – 2024 Application Process – Commission discussed this grant and/or use the funds that were encumbered in the 2023 Capital

- Budget. This discussion will be tabled until the November meeting to discuss with the Chairman present.
6. 534 Drake Avenue – Proposal for Soil Care & Fertilization – Mr. Bond noted that two quotes for fertilization have come in, SavATree and Forest Glen. One more quote from Tamke should be arriving this week.
 7. JLUB Plans 2023-007 Mimi Sweets Warehouse – This was tabled until the November meeting.
 8. Fall Planting – This will be discussed at the November, 2023 Meeting. We are awaiting quotes for the planting.

Vice Chairman Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Linda Chismar, Secretary

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

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