

November 9, 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 (absent)
 Frank Ryan
 Jeff Killian

Council Rep.: Doug Rex (absent)

Secretary Linda Chismar

Chairman Jason Bond opened the meeting to the public.

Clare LeVourne, 809 Grandview Street stated that she attended the meeting to see what is going on regarding the planting of trees in our town.

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 October 19, 2023 Shade Tree 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 October, 2023 Finance Report.

Communications

1. 116 Chestnut Street – Mr. Bond will go out to assess tree on this property.
2. 445 Howard Avenue – Mr. Bond will check on the tree that resident feels is causing a sewer issue.
3. 1203 Sheridan Ave. – Mr. Johnson will check on the tree that interferes with the power lines.
4. 212 Lucia Street – Mr. Bond reported that there are dead branches in the oak tree that need pruning.

Work Agenda

1. 570 Ashland Rod – Commission agreed that nothing would be done with the 3 trees removed by a contractor. The one shade tree was definitely dead.
2. Tree on Corner of Route 28 & Orchard Road – Vice Chairman Johnson reported that the two trees need 2” dead wood prune and reevaluate in Spring.
3. Tree on Route 28 in front of 601 Bound Brook Road – Commission agreed that nothing would be done regarding the removal of the tree located on the State Highway.
4. 710 Williams Street – Mr. Gorman will go out to look at the tree at this location.
5. Tree on the Corner of Oak and Ashland – Mr. Bond will go out and report on the tree that appears to have dead limbs.

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 the Secretary should encumber funds that are left in the Shade Tree Account and see if additional funds are received with a budget transfer. If so, encumber the remaining outstanding tree work.
2. Itemize Tree Removals – See above
3. Fall Planting – Internally – Including Estimates – DPW Superintendent attended meeting and indicated that the DPW would be willing to plant the 30 shade trees and save over 50% of the funds. The commission will have 30 trees planted for \$5,000. A consensus of the Commission agreed to have DPW plant the 30 shade trees and also to plant an additional 30 trees for an additional \$5,000. Funds will be taken from the Tree Replacement Fund.
4. Tree Inventory – Capital Budget Use – Commission will be going out to bid for a Tree Inventory in January, 2024. Funds for this project were approved in the
5. 534 Drake Avenue – Proposal for Soil Care & Fertilization – Mr. Bond reported that the lowest quote for this job is from Tamke Experts in the amount of \$195. Funds will be taken from the Tree Replacement Fund. The DPW Superintendent has done a mark out so fertilization does not hurt roots. DPW will also put down wood chips.
6. Shade Tree Content – Susan Edwards was selected as the winner of the Shade Tree Content. She submitted a picture of a tree at Victor Crowell Park. As the winner of this contest she will receive a tree to be planted in Middlesex Borough.
7. JLUB Plans 2023-007 for Mimi Sweets Warehouse were reviewed with the following changes:
Landscape Plan, Page C-05
Planting Specs

#7 Soil Modifications

No peat moss to be used.

#8 Planting

Root collars of trees shall be exposed and free from defects. If defects are too abundant then a replacement tree should be chosen.

A: Planting pits shall be a minimum of two times the diameter of the root ball. No peat moss. A compost blend is acceptable.

C: Root collars shall be visible and free of defects at completion

G:Any pruning shall be performed or approved by a NJ Licensed Tree Expert

Please double the amount of proposed trees. A blend of tillia, linden, and other suitable trees may be chosen.

8. JLUB Plans 2023-010 AHA Holding Group LLC – There were no plans included in this application.
9. Chairman Bond would like to look in to a stricter protocol for tree removal on personal property in the future.
10. Chairman Bond would like to get a legal opinion as to what is the shade tree's recourse if a borough tree lifts the curb or street. The Borough Code now indicates the resident is responsible for the sidewalk

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

Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 14, 2023 – 7 PM

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