

December 14, 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 (absent)

Secretary             Linda Chismar

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

Mr. Gorman made a motion to approve the November 9, 2023 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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

#### Communications

1. 926 Voorhees Avenue – Commission indicated that the box elder should be removed along with the cherry tree. Two new trees should be planted.
2. 35 Dayton Avenue – Commission determined that the black locust on the side of the driveway should have a crown reduction
3. 500 Voorhees Avenue – Commission determined that the London plane is healthy and the tree on the left side of the driveway should have the service wires cleared.
4. 320 Anthony Avenue – Chairman reported that the large pin oak should be pruned.
5. 12 Park Place – Jim Gorman will look at the tree dropping branches in front of this house.
6. 200 Blackford Avenue – Chairman Bond will check on the 2 dead trees reported in front of this property.

#### Work Agenda

1. 116 Chestnut Street – Mr. Bond reported that nothing was needed on the honey locust.
2. 445 Howard Avenue – Mr. Bond reported that nothing was needed on this maple tree.
3. 1203 Sheridan Avenue – Mr. Johnson indicted that the cable wires should be cleared from the white pine.
4. 710 William Street – Not a borough tree.
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.
2. Tree on Corner of Route 28 & Orchard Road – Reevaluate in Spring

#### Violations

1. 510 Beechwood Avenue – Awaiting court date for this violation

#### New Business

1. Budget Update – Commission reviewed the budget numbers listed on the Finance Report and reported that the Secretary should encumber the additional \$10,000 of funds that were transferred into the Shade Tree Account. Commission also discussed requesting \$55,000 for the 2024 budget – but also checking with the CFO on the software program for the tree inventory that they intent on going out to bid on and see if it needs to be added to the 2024 budget.
2. Itemize Tree Removals – See above
3. Fall Planting Update – DPW planted 37 trees and will be unable to get more to plant at this time.
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 Capital Budget.
5. Shade Tree Contest – Ms. Edwards accepted the Red Maple that she won for this contest. This picture was put in the Newsletter.
6. JLUB Plans – Block 356, Lot 1 - At the Shade Tree Commission Meeting of Thursday, December 14, 2023 the Commission discussed the recommendations by Chairman Bond on the following property:
  - no peat moss to be blended in the planting pits
  - Any pruning to be conducted shall be done by or overseen by a NJ Licensed Tree Expert
  - please increase the red maples to a minimum of 20, double the amount of nyssa and replace Leland cypress with bald cypress
7. JLUB Plans 2023-004 (250 Wood Ave.) - At the Shade Tree Commission Meeting of Thursday, December 14, 2023 the Commission discussed the recommendations by Chairman Bond on the following property:

- Reduce the number of Juniper Virginiana and increase the number of picea abies.
  - Ensure the planting hole is a minimum of twice the diameter of the root ball.
  - Trees shall be planted at or slightly above grade and the root collars shall be visible and free of defects at time of planting.
  - A sufficient watering regime is recommended for two years after installation.
8. JLUB Plans 2023-010 (700 South Avenue) - At the Shade Tree Commission Meeting of Thursday, December 14, 2023 the Commission discussed the recommendations by Chairman Bond on the following property:

Reference to page 8

- Planting hole preparation, no peat moss recommended
- "Planting notes"- root flare, or collar, shall be at or slightly above grade, free from visible defects at time of planting.
- please double the amount of deciduous trees.
- replace pin oaks with swamp white oak or London plane trees.

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

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Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY,  
JANUARY 11, 2024 – 7 PM

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