

May 8, 2014
Middlesex Municipal Building

The Regular meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held on the above date at the Middlesex Public Library and called to order by Vice Chairman Dan Gitler:

“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 16, 2013”

Members: Jason Bond
Dan Gitler
Bob Ferris (absent)
Jim Gorman
Frank Ryan (absent)

Alternates: Betty Platten (Alt. #1) (absent)
Sean Johnson (Alt. #2)

Liaison Sean Kaplan (absent)
Secretary Linda Chismar

Chairman Bond opened the meeting to the public.

Sharon Smigel, 27 Washington Avenue stated that the canopy is falling apart and branches are falling from this tree which is over 100 years old. A majority of the limbs are hanging toward her house and a few weeks ago a limb fell and she lost power. She requested that the canopy be trimmed, the upper limbs be trimmed and also the limbs that are hanging over the street. Chairman Bond, Mr. Gitler and Mr. Johnson will go out to view the tree.

John & Melissa Perrello, 316 Raphael Street, complained about the 2 sycamore trees that are leaning towards the power lines. Also they are concerned about a hole in the tree. Chairman Bond agreed to look at the tree and determine what is needed.

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

Mr. Gitler made a motion to accept the April 10, 2014 Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the members of the Commission.

Mr. Gitler made a motion to accept the April, 2014 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the members of the Commission.

Communications

- A. 214 Melrose Avenue – Commission determined that the tree on the right side of the driveway needs a 2” crown clean and should be reduced over the driveway.
- B. 27 Washington Avenue – Resident attended meeting and this property was discussed above.
- C. 639 Cook Avenue – Mr. Johnson will look at the tree leaning towards the house that resident has requested be pruned and report back to commission.
- D. 311 Chestnut Street – Commission determined that this tree should be removed and feels that the tree on the left should have limbs reduced.
- E. 409 Edgeworth Street – Mr. Gorman will look to see if this tree is dead and report back to commission.

Work Agenda

- 1. 408 Walnut Street – Frank Ryan will look to see if the oak tree next to the driveway needs trimming.
- 2. 218 Appian Way – Dan Gitler reported that the Norway maple appears healthy, and nothing is needed to be done.
- 3. 219 D Street – Frank Ryan will look at this tree and evaluate.
- 4. 307 – 311 Greene Avenue – Frank Ryan will meet with the Victor Crowell Park Committee and discuss these trees and bring back to the Commission.
- 5. 15 Edward Avenue – Commission has requested that the DPW elevate the bottom of this tree.
- 6. 400 – 500 Block of Melrose Avenue – Commission have evaluated and determined that nothing is needed in this area.
- 7. 521 Giles Ave. – Commission has determined that nothing is needed on the tree in the front of this property.

Unfinished Business

- (A) Increase of Fines when Removing Trees – This was discussed briefly, and Chairman Bond will reach out to other people on verbiage for this ordinance amendment. Commission will follow up on this ordinance amendment.
- (B) Distribution of flyers for residents on Hazelwood Road between Orchard Road & Vesper – Committee has agreed to distribute these flyers on Hazelwood and in other locations of the borough.
- (C) Update on Spring Tree Planting – Awarding of Planting Quote - Commission has awarded the Spring and Fall Planting to the lowest quote received, which was Boltzer Landscaping, Inc. for \$230.00 per tree. Purchasing Agent will approve and then move forward on spring planting. Commission also agreed to plant 20 trees for the Spring (4 London Plane, 4 Swamp White Oak, 4 Sugar Maple, 6 Red Oak and 2 Sycamore).

New Business

- (A) Purchase Order for Tree Marking – Linda has encumbered a \$50.00 blanket purchase order for the purchase of tape and paint to mark shade trees.

(B) Jason Bond reported that the Tree Giveaway Program that was done at the Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success and that 900 trees were given away this year. Next year Chairman Bond is requesting that they triple the amount of trees that we distribute.

Mr. Gitler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY,
JUNE 12, 2014 – 7:30 PM
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

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

