

June 9, 2016
Middlesex Municipal Building

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 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 11, 2015”

Members: Jason Bond
 Dan Gitler
 Sean Johnson (absent)
 Jim Gorman
 John Madden, liaison (absent)

Secretary Linda Chismar

Chairman Gitler opened the meeting to the public.

Ms. Shannon Anwander, 407 Walnut Street attended the meeting and indicated that she had a problem with her sewer line from the tree in front of her house and also an issue with her sidewalk. Ms. Anwander’s homeowner’s insurance company has notified her that her sidewalk was considered a liability. Ms. Anwander is a new resident and has had to have her sewer line unclogged and it has been viewed with a video camera which showed the roots that are in the line. Her plumber that is going to repair her sewer line has requested that the tree be removed before they start working on her sewer. Mr. Gitler indicated that they will go look at the tree and assess the condition of the tree, but the Shade Tree does not repair sidewalks. Ms. Anwander also mentioned that the tree is growing into the power lines. The Commission agreed to go to look at this tree next week and make a consensus of what will be done with this tree. – **NOTHING NEEDED AT THIS TIME**

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

Mr. Gorman made a motion to approve the May 12, 2016 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Bond and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mr. Gitler moved to accept the May, 2016 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Bond and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Communications

1. 405 Giles Avenue - Commission agreed that at this time no dead wood or decay was found in this tree and it had already been pruned by PSE&G. They felt that nothing was needed at this time.
2. 529 Edgeworth Street – Commission members will go out to look at the tree that Ms. Comer feels is dying and advise the secretary of the status. – **2” PRUNE & REMOVE DEAD STALK**
3. 30 Dayton Avenue - Commission will go out to look at the tree that Ms. Pavlochak reported needed pruning and on her Verizon wires. – **TRIM BRANCH LEANING ON PHONE LINE**
4. 61 Greenbrook Road – Commission agreed to look at the tree in front of this property that resident feels needs to be pruned. – **TRIM TWO TREES**
5. 509 Fairview Avenue – Commission indicated that the tree in front of this property is definitely dead and it will be removed. Predator indicated that the cost for removal will be \$600. Commission agreed to replace with another tree.
6. 316 Raphael Avenue – Mr. Bond and Mr. Gitler looked at this tree and reported that nothing was needed to be done at this time. Ms. Parello had sent an e-mail and indicated that branches had fallen off during the last wind storm and damaged her car. The secretary forwarded her a Claim Form to file regarding the damages that she reported. The secretary will file this claim when she receives it from Ms. Parello.

Work Agenda

1. 300 John Street – Commission agreed to grind the stump, and Commission members will go out to look at the tree that resident feels is dead.
2. 220 Chestnut Street – Commission agreed that there was no evidence of infestation of carpenter ants, and agreed to do a 2” prune.
3. 125 Fourth Street – Mr. Gitler reported that this tree appeared to have been removed at this time.
4. 800 Beechwood Avenue – Commission agreed that nothing was needed to be done to the black locust tree in the front of this property.
5. 106 Cap Lane – Commission agreed that to crown clean this tree and elevate trunk sprouts.
6. 215 Harris Avenue – Mr. Johnson and Mr. Bond will look at the uprooting sidewalk that resident feels is caused by the shade tree. – **NOTHING NEEDED NOW**

7. 127 6th Street – Commission agreed to hold off on viewing this tree as utility company is pruning in the area and will revisit next meeting and possibly do an aerial assessment. – **NOTHING NEEDED**
8. 600 Hazelwood Avenue – Commission agreed to remove this tree and replace it with a red bud.
9. 95 Ramsey Road – Commission members will go out to look at this tree that Ms. Ghanim feels is dead. - **REMOVE**
10. OLMV – Trees along Drake Avenue – Commission feels that nothing is needed to be done to the trees that are along Drake Avenue as they are healthy.

Unfinished Business

1. Update from 5/24/16 Council Meeting – Tree Management Plan & Budget – Chairman Gitler made a presentation to the Mayor and Council at the May 24, 2016 Regular Meeting and explained that he needed the Mayor's signature on the Tree Management Plan, but because the Shade Tree Commission's budget was reduced he notified the Mayor and Council that we were no longer eligible to be a member of Tree City USA, of which the town has been a member for 28 years. We must be a member of Tree City USA in order to be eligible for our community forestry plan to be submitted. Mr. Gitler stated that the commission would like to use the funds in the tree replacement fund for planting and allocate the funds in the shade tree budget. These funds would be used solely for the planting of shade trees. The Commission would need approximately \$2500 of these funds to maintain their status with Tree City USA and must show proof that they are planting more trees than are removed. By following this plan, the borough would become eligible for several more grants to be used for Shade Tree. Mr. Gitler indicated that the council requested that they will refer the increase in funds to the Finance Committee to discuss and they would contact the commission.
2. Update of Tree Management Plan – At this point the commission needs the following (1) budget must be adjusted, (2) Mayor sign's Plan, and (3) Must be forwarded to State Forrester and possibly adjust date to begin in January, 2017.
3. Elm Tree Planting – Mr. Gitler indicated that the discussion regarding the Elm Tree Replenishment Project will be delayed until 2017.

New Business

1. Quote for Fall Planting – Commission needs to supply an additional quote for planting in Fall.
2. 2016 Fall Planting List – Commission added locations and this will be discussed further in September. Per the management plan, they will be replacing a tree for each tree that is removed.
3. American Watershed Ambassador Program – Mr. Bond will discuss this at the September Shade Tree Meeting.

4. Tree Removal Fines – The secretary will include on the Work Agenda a listing of trees by the commission that are removed without Shade Tree Approval and may require a potential fine.

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

Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 – 7:30 PM
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

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

