

January 14, 2016  
Middlesex Borough Hall

The regular meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission scheduled for the above date was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

The next Meeting will be held on February 11, 2016 at 7:30 P.M. in Borough Hall.

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Linda Chismar, Secretary

February 18, 2016  
Middlesex Municipal Building

The special meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held on the above date at the Middlesex Borough Hall and called to order by Secretary Linda Chismar:

“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 February 16, 2015”

Members:                Jason Bond  
                              Dan Gitler  
                              Sean Johnson  
                              Jim Gorman

Secretary                Linda Chismar

Jim Gorman made a motion to nominate Dan Gitler for the Chairman of the Commission for 2016 seconded by Jason Bond and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Dan Gitler made a motion to nominate Jason Bond for Vice Chairman of the Commission for 2016 seconded by Jim Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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

Mr. Bond made a motion to approve the December 10, 2015 and January 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Bond and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mr. Gitler moved to accept the December, 2015 and January, 2016 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Bond and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

#### Communications

1. 300 John Street – This property will be revisited by the Commission, and DPW will be sure that the stump is on Borough Property and also that the tree that she believes is dead belongs to the borough. This will be discussed next month.
2. 609 Lincoln Boulevard – Commission has decided that this pear tree needs to be pruned and cleared around the wires.
3. 334 Fairview Avenue – Commission agreed to have the tree removed in the front of this property and replaced with a zelcova.

4. 105 Zoar Place – Mr. Gitler will go out to look at this tree in front the property that resident feels needs to be trimmed and cleared around the wires.
5. 220 Chestnut Street – Mr. Gitler will go out to look at the tree that resident feels is infested with carpenter ants.
6. 202 Chestnut Street – The two marked trees in the front of the property need to be removed.

#### Work Agenda

- (1) 220 Green Avenue – Commission recommended that a re-inspection should be done in the Spring to make an accurate assessment.

#### Unfinished Business

- (A) Increase of Fines when Removing Trees – A committee meeting will be held with the Shade Tree Liaison, Councilman Madden, to discuss the Commission's recommendation to amend the ordinance and increase the fines when removing borough trees on the right of way.
- (B) Update on Tree Management Plan – Commission discussed this plan and a Committee Meeting will be held with Mr. Bond, Mr. Madden and either Mr. Gitler or Mr. Gorman to discuss this Plan and the required participation by DPW in order to implement the plan.
- (C) Update on 52 Glen Gary Road – Additional funds have been encumbered for this job. A letter was sent to the homeowner that will be affected by this removal on Orchard Road, and he has given written approval to allow Predator to enter his property for access to the tree. The contractor is on hold pending weather conditions.

#### New Business

Commission discussed that the locust tree that is in the front of Hazelwood School (right side of new plantings) needs to be pruned.

Also, Commission requested that the DPW measure the red oak at 401 Beechwood Avenue to see if it is on the borough right of way. A branch has fallen, and if a borough tree, this tree would need a crown clean of dead wood only.

The Secretary will check with the Purchasing Agent to see if we are required to go out to bid again this year for our tree planting contractor.

Mr. Gorman requested to be registered for the free seminar on Planting the Right Tree in the Right Place the Right Way in a Post-Superstorm Sandy World to be held on March 25, 2016.

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

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Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY,  
MARCH 10, 2016 – 7:30 PM  
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

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



March 10, 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

Secretary                Linda Chismar

Chairman Gitler opened the meeting to the public.

Jeffery Licato, 800 Beechwood Avenue attended the meeting and indicated that he purchased this property in December and it had a sewer backup and he had to pay \$2700 for the repair, and the contractor found tree roots at the site. Mr. Licato is worried about trees causing damage to new water line and any future damage that the roots may cause after he put all this money into this repair. Mr. Gitler explained that trees don't know that there is water in a water line, but they find when the water line is leaking and that is where they get in. The root system finds a hole and expands. The old cast iron lines will rot and leak. The Commission agreed to go out to look at the black locust tree in the front of this property. Also the commission spoke to Mr. Licato about planting additional trees on his property. He stated that he would consider planting on the corner where the Oak tree was, and would call the secretary if he would like to be put on the planting list.

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 February 18, 2016 Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Gitler and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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

Communications

1. 421 North Lincoln Avenue – Mr. Bond will go out to look at the shade tree in the front of this property that had a blue ribbon and resident feels is dead.
2. 125 Fourth Street – Mr. Bond will check the tree on the side of his property that resident requested be removed as it is dropping branches.
3. 119 Green Avenue – Mr. Gitler will look at the tree that residents feels is dead and report back.

#### Work Agenda

1. 220 Green Avenue – Commission recommended that a re-inspection should be done in the Spring to make an accurate assessment.
2. 300 John Street – Commission agreed to grind stump, but will go out in the Spring to check on the tree that resident feels is dead.
3. 105 Zoar Place – Commission agreed to remove this mulberry tree
4. 220 Chestnut Street – Mr. Gitler did not see any evidence of infestation of carpenter ants, but commission agreed to table until next month to look again at the tree.

#### Unfinished Business

1. Mr. Gitler and Mr. Bond met with Councilman Madden and discussed the commission's request to increase the fines when removing trees on the borough right-of-way without permission of the Shade Tree Commission. Councilman Madden will bring this request to the council to discuss further. Also, with regard to that issue the Commission discussed the two trees that were removed at 12 Woodrow Avenue without Shade Tree approval and also the trees at 417 Union Avenue (Property that was destroyed by fire). The commission will notify Councilman Madden that they would like to enforce the ordinance with regarding to the Woodrow Avenue trees, and also be sure that once the house on Union Avenue is demolished that the contractor take a tree permit out for the trees that were removed at that location, and per the ordinance either replace the trees or collect the funds required in the ordinance which would be put in the tree replacement fund.
2. Update of Tree Management Plan – Mr. Bond discussed the meeting that was held last week with the Council Liaison and Mr. Gitler regarding this management plan. Mr. Gitler and Mr. Bond discussed the funds that were required for training and CEU's in order to comply with this plan, and also the DPW employee that would be designated to be core trained. Mr. Gitler will forward to Mr. Madden the financial information that is required to move forward with this plan, so that he can address the appropriate personnel. The Commission intends to discuss further and accept the Tree Management Plan at the April 14, 2016 Shade Tree Meeting.

#### New Business

1. Planting of Arbor Day Tree – Commission discussed planting a Southern Magnolia Tree for Arbor Day in the front of Victor Crowell Park, adjacent to the 911 Memorial in the grassy area. Mr. Gorman will stake out the location to move forward with planting at this location.
2. New Quotes for Tree Planting for Spring, 2016 – Commission discussed the tree planting for 2016. The Commission will solicit for quotes for planting 30 trees (Spring & Fall) for 2016. The Purchasing Agent will approve before this is done.
3. Also, Mr. Bond requested that the Commission plant 3 trees to the left of 354 Grant Avenue for Spring planting, as it is a dead space.

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

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Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY,  
APRIL 14, 2016 – 7:30 PM  
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

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



April 14, 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 (absent)  
                              Dan Gitler  
                              Sean Johnson  
                              Jim Gorman  
                              John Madden, liaison (absent)

Secretary                Linda Chismar

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

Mr. Gitler made a motion to approve the March 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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

#### Communications

1. 303 Ashland Road – Commission agreed to remove the tree in the front of the residence that is leaning and replant another tree in the area of the removal.
2. 421 Fairview Avenue – Commission feels that nothing is needed to be done on this tree, as it is healthy and was recently pruned.
3. 61 Louis Avenue – Commission agreed to remove this small Norway maple and replace the tree.
4. 19 Shearn Drive – Commission agreed to prune this tree that is dropping branches and clear the wires.

5. 119 Fairview Avenue – Commission agreed to thin and prune the tree that has roots that are growing under the sidewalk. The commission also indicated that the resident can lift the sidewalk and cut the roots if it is uplifting sidewalk.
6. 106 Cap Lane – Mr. Gitler will go out to look at the tree in the front of this property that resident has requested be removed.
7. 424 Giles Avenue – Commission has agreed that the tree in front of this property is healthy and should be crown cleaned.
8. 135 Lincoln Boulevard (Corner of A Street) – Commission indicated that nothing is needed on the big pear tree in front of this business. They can trim roots under sidewalk if needed.
9. 417 Runyon Avenue – Commission will go out to look at the tree in front of the house that is dropping branches.
10. 425 Runyon Avenue – Commissioners will go out to property to look at the two trees that resident feels might be dead.
11. 215 Harris Avenue – Resident would like commissioners to look at her uprooting sidewalk. Commission will go out to look at this tree.

#### Work Agenda

1. 220 Green Avenue – Commission recommended that a re-inspection should be done in the Spring to make an accurate assessment.
2. 300 John Street – Commission agreed to grind stump, but will go out in the Spring to check on the tree that resident feels is dead.
3. 220 Chestnut Street – Mr. Gitler did not see any evidence of infestation of carpenter ants, but commission agreed to table until next month to look again at the tree.
4. 421 North Lincoln Avenue – Mr. Bond will go out to look at the shade tree in the front of this property that had a blue ribbon and resident feels is dead.
5. 125 Fourth Street – Mr. Bond will check the tree on the side of this property that resident requested be removed as it is dropping branches.
6. 119 Green Avenue – Mr. Gitler will look at the tree that resident feels is dead and report back.
7. 800 Beechwood Avenue – Commission has agreed to look at the black locust tree in the front of this property that resident felt had caused his sewer problem.

#### Unfinished Business

1. Increase of Fines when Removing Trees – An e-mail was sent to Council Liaison regarding increasing the fines in the borough ordinance. The Commission is

concerned as a number of borough trees have been removed without Commission permission. Commissioner Gitler will follow up on this request.

2. Update of Tree Management Plan – Mr. Bond was absent, so no update was done. This will be discussed further at the May 12, 2016 Meeting.

#### New Business

1. Planting of Arbor Day Tree – Commission discussed planting a Southern Magnolia Tree for Arbor Day in the front of Victor Crowell Park, adjacent to the 911 Memorial in the grassy area. The stake for the tree was removed, and Mr. Gorman will stake out the location again, and the secretary will notify Boltzer Landscaping that the Purchase Order has been approved and he can move forward with planting at this location.
2. New Quotes for Tree Planting for Spring, 2016 – Commission received one quote and the Commissioners will solicit for another quote for the planting of 30 trees (Spring & Fall) for 2016. The Purchasing Agent will approve before this is done.
3. Commissioners discussed the purchasing of Elm Trees from the Elm Society over a 5 year period. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.
4. Mr. Johnson will be spearheading the planting of “whips” or saplings in the borough and will follow up at the May 12, 2016 Meeting.

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

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Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY,  
MAY 12, 2016 – 7:30 PM  
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

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



May 12, 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  
                                  Jim Gorman (absent)  
                                  John Madden, liaison (absent)

Secretary                 Linda Chismar

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

Mr. Gitler made a motion to approve the April 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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

#### Communications

1. 127 6<sup>th</sup> 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.
2. 316 Raphael Avenue – Mr. Gitler and Mr. Bond will look at this tree that Ms. Parelo feels is dying in the front of her property.
3. 600 Hazelwood Avenue – Commission agreed to follow up on this request at the June Meeting.
4. 95 Ramsey Road – Mr. Bond will go out to assess this tree that Ms. Ghanim feels is dead.

5. 112 Giles Avenue – Resident called and indicated that roots of tree are still on property after tree has been removed. Commission indicated that the contractor is responsible for removing only the stump of the tree and clearance of the surrounding roots throughout the grass would be on the homeowner.
6. OLMV – Trees along Drake Ave. (Parking Lot) – Father Pat requested that the trees along Drake Avenue be removed, as he feels that they are dangerous. Commission members will go out to look at the trees and report back at the June Meeting.

#### Work Agenda

1. 220 Green Avenue – Commission agreed to crown clean the pin oak 2”.
2. 300 John Street – Commission agreed to grind the stump, and Mr. Johnson will go out to look at the tree that resident feels is dead.
3. 220 Chestnut Street – Mr. Gitler did not see any evidence of infestation of carpenter ants, but commission agreed to table until next month to look again at the tree.
4. 421 North Lincoln Avenue – Mr. Bond looked at the shade tree in the front of this property, but feel that it is not dead and nothing is needed.
5. 125 Fourth Street – Mr. Gitler will check the tree on the side of this property that resident requested be removed as it is dropping branches.
6. 119 Green Avenue – Commission agreed to prune this Norway Maple.
7. 800 Beechwood Avenue – Commission will follow up at the June Meeting with the black locust tree in the front of this property that resident felt had caused his sewer problem.
8. 106 Cap Lane – Commission agreed to follow up at the next meeting about the tree that resident has requested be removed.
9. 417 Runyon Avenue – Commission agreed to crown clean the tree in front of this property.
10. 425 Runyon Avenue – Commission agreed to remove the two trees in front of this property and replant 2 cherry trees.
11. 215 Harris Avenue – Mr. Johnson and Mr. Bond will look at the uprooting sidewalk that resident feels is caused by the shade tree.

#### Unfinished Business

1. Increase of Fines when Removing Trees – Mr. Gitler will meet with Mayor DiMura to discuss this request to amend the ordinance and also how the violations are being handled or will bring this request to the May 24, 2016 Regular Council to discuss along with the Tree Management Plan.

2. Update of Tree Management Plan – Chairman Gitler and commissioners will attend the May 24, 2016 Council Meeting to discuss the Tree Management Plan with the governing body.
3. Elm Tree Planting – Mr. Gitler will bring information to the June, 2016 Shade Tree Meeting to discuss the Elm Tree Replenishment Project.
4. Planting of “whips” – Mr. Johnson indicated that it is too late to do this planting this spring, but will discuss with the commission in March, 2017.

#### New Business

1. Quote for Spring Planting – Commission will supply quotes to secretary shortly.
2. Spring, 2016 Planting List – Commission agreed that due to the cut in the budget, they are planning to suspend the Spring Planting and do a Fall Planting of approximately 30 trees if funds are available. Will request permission from council to use funds in the Tree Replacement Fund for the planting.
3. Request by Tree City USA for Pictures of events – Commission discussed that more information must be documented to comply with Tree City USA Program.
4. Mr. Bond discussed the American Watershed Ambassador Program where they will plant trees for free near watershed areas. Mr. Bond will discuss further at the June, 2016 Meeting.

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

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Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY,  
JUNE 9, 2016 – 7:30 PM  
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

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





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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

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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



November 10, 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 Special Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on October 19, 2016”

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

Secretary                 Linda Chismar

Chairman Gitler opened the meeting to the public.

Sarah Smith, 210 East Greenlawn Avenue indicated that the tree that is closest to her driveway is wreaking havoc on her property. She indicated that the roots are pushing up the bottom of the driveway. She has patched the blacktop but would like the tree removed due to what the roots are doing to her driveway, the sewer system (roots are going around the sewer line and gas line) and also PSE&G's clipping of the tree which is causing the tree to turn back on one side. Mr. Gitler suggested that Ms. Smith might want to mark out for the sewer line being affected by the tree and purchase copper sulfate from Home Depot, put it down your toilet and it will turn the water blue and the root tips will die. Commission agreed to reassess the tree, but also indicated that she was permitted to shave the roots at the edge of her driveway so that they do not raise the driveway. – **COMMISSION AGREED THAT IF SHE GETS PROOF OF CONTRACT PLAN TO REPAIR HER SEWER WE WILL TAKE TREE DOWN TO DO REPAIRS AND REPLACE WITH A TREE SPECIE THAT SHE REQUESTS.**

James Pombrio, 117 Giles Avenue attended the meeting to report that his maple tree is breaking his sidewalk and would like it removed. Commission indicated that Mr. Pombrio can cut the roots back and repair the sidewalk, and they feel that the tree will not be aggressive enough to lift a newly repaired sidewalk.

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

Mr. Gitler made a motion to approve the October 24, 2016 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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

### Communications

1. 208 Giles Avenue – Commission has gone out to look at this tree and agreed that it is dead and should be removed.
2. 523 Chestnut Street – Mr. Johnson will go out to look at this tree in front of this property and report back to commission.
3. 420 Runyon Avenue – The tree in questions was a replacement tree that was planted after the previous resident had sewer problems and had the tree that caused these problems removed. The resident feels that this tree should be removed because it growing by the wires. Commission looked at the tree and it appears to be healthy. The resident has requested in writing that if the tree falls the borough will be responsible.

### Work Agenda

1. 332 Edgeworth Street – Removal – Voucher Done.
2. 741 Lincoln Boulevard – Commission looked at the tree in front of this property and felt that nothing was needed.
3. 415 Giles Avenue – Removal – Voucher Done.
4. 504 Walnut Street – Commission determined that the low branches on this tree should be pruned.
5. 8 Dunlap Place – Commission looked at this tree and determined that nothing was needed, but resident could trim roots that are causing the curb lifting.
6. 539 Howard Avenue – Commission looked at this tree and determined that the low branches should be trimmed. A voucher has been submitted.
7. 129 Vogel Street – Mr. Gorman will go out to look at this tree, as commission could not locate the tree.
8. Commission will look at the corner of Rock and Seventh where Mr. Madden reported that there is a dead tree that should be removed. (tree was recently planted and is the last tree on the east side of Seventh Street).
9. Commission will look at the poison ivy vines along Seventh Street and entwined in the mature trees. Commission will look into these vines. Also vines behind the 7-11 on Marlborough Avenue which could damage the trees.

### Unfinished Business

1. Update on Tree Management Plan – Mr. Bond will follow up on the receipt of the completed management plan and then it will need Mayor DiMura's signature. A voucher must be signed by the CFO, and a copy of the Purchase Order that indicates what has been paid to Paul Cowie & Associates must be included in the packet. The Commission requested that the secretary forward to the CFO for signature. If in kind volunteer match is included it would count at the rate of \$23.56 per hour for these volunteer services.
2. Elm Tree Planting – Elm Society – Mr. Johnson tabled this discussion until the January, 2017 Meeting.
3. Library Memorial Tree Request Planting – Memorial Tree has been planted and the Memorial for Carole Chellis was held.
4. American Watershed Ambassador Program – Mr. Bond has put 3 calls into them, but has not received a response yet.
5. Budget/Planting State/Tree Replacement Fund – Remaining funds in the 2016 budget amount to \$815.00. A voucher in the amount of \$7,250 was done for the Fall planting of 27 trees. These funds were taken from the Tree Replacement Fund and trees should be planted any day.

#### New Business

1. Changing of LTE Bill – Requirements for 2018 – Mr. Bond mentioned that changes to the LTE Bill become effective in 2018 and include that all tree contractors now will need to have the LTE License. If you have the CTE License you would be considered grandfathered. Municipality work may still be exempt, but businesses will be required to hold this license, or their insurance company can drop them.

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

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Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 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





December 8, 2016  
Middlesex Borough Hall

The regular meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission scheduled for the above date was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

The next Meeting will be held on January 12, 2017 at 7:30 P.M. in Borough Hall.

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Linda Chismar, Secretary