

September 17, 2020
Middlesex Municipal Building

The meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held remotely on the above date and called to order by Chairman Jason Bond.

“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 Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on August 24, 2020.

Members: Jason Bond
 Dan Gitler
 Sean Johnson
 Jim Gorman
 Jeff Killian
 Doug Rex, Representative

Secretary Linda Chismar

Chairman Bond opened the meeting to the public.

Tamika Mbaekwe – 714 Pershing Avenue indicated that there is tree between her house and the neighbors which has been a nuisance. The tree seems to be dead and she requested that it be removed. Chairman Bond discussed that they would go out to look at the tree and that it would be removed if dead, and she agreed to accept another tree.

Christine DeCoste, 101 Grandview Street requested that the tree be removed that has caused damage in the past, as Chairman Bond has agreed to look at the tree and they will decide a plan of action.

Secretary Chismar read the following comments into the record.

Ross Bootan, 318 Giles Ave. – I would like to remove a tree on my property and wanted to know the proper steps I need to take with the township. I attached picture of the tree I would like to remove. I can be reached by email and also my cell phone info is attached. Mr. Johnson will go out to assess the tree.

Edgar Rivera & Maria Gomez, 407 Walnut Street – My wife and I recently moved into 407 Walnut Street – about 2 months ago. The tree in front of our house, while offering shade seems to have dangerous overlap on wires and, even before we moved in, the roots seem to be lifting the sidewalk pavement. The tree seems to be on municipal/public property as it is close to the street and in front of the sidewalk. We’d like confirmation on how this can be resolved, Can someone come by and have a look? Mr. Gitler will be going out to assess this tree.

Louis DeNardo, Jr. 501 Decatur Ave. – I previously inquired about this tree in 2019. The tree didn’t look healthy to me. The roots were also an issue for a new driveway. The Boro later advised me that the tree was ok. This year the tree started dropping leaves

prematurely in mid August. There are many noticeable dead branches, some which are very large. I believe that this tree has become dangerous, it is a threat to life and adjacent properties. Remedy: Have the borough tree service remove the tree ASAP! If the tree is deemed to be healthy; trim it so it is not a threat to person or property. Mr. Gitler will go out to assess the tree.

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

Mr. Gitler made a motion to approve the June 11, 2020 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mr. Gitler moved to approve the June, July & August, 2020 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Killian and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Communications

1. 132 Walnut Street – Commission agreed to remove the dead oak tree and put a replacement tree on the property.
2. 434 Clinton Avenue – Mr. Gorman will go out to look at this tree for any potential issues.
3. 433 Fairview Avenue – Mr. Bond will go out to look at this tree to see if needs to be removed or possibly trimmed.
4. 79 Ramsey Road – The secretary will have DPW confirm that it is a borough tree, and if so, it needs to be removed.
5. 26 Mead Avenue – Mr. Gitler will go out to look at the three trees on the left side of the house that have branches that have fallen on neighbor's car and needs to be assessed.
6. 312 Ambrose Avenue – Commission agreed to remove the sugar maple that is in front of this property.
7. 529 Edgeworth Tree – Commission agreed to reduce one large limb that is overextending over the wires and prune the limbs that are 2" in diameter or larger.
8. 316 Raphael Street -Mr. Gitler and Mr. Bond will look at this tree and report back to commission.
9. 81 Louis Avenue – Mr. Bond will look at the tree in front of this property to determined if it needs to be pruned.
10. 560 Cook Avenue – The Commission would like tree to be measured but feel that nothing is needed to be done to it.
11. 207 Walnut Street – Mr. Killian will look at the tree that has a branch above the cable wire which resident feels is infested with carpenter ants.

12. 303 Maple Street – Commission would like to have this Norway maple pruned.
13. 832 W. Second Street – Mr. Gorman will look at the tree that has a big lead broken and report if the remainder of the tree is hollow.
14. 512 Howard Avenue – Commission would like to have the low hanging branches trimmed that are hanging over the roadway.
15. 440 Cook Avenue – Commission would like to have the low hanging branches trimmed that are hanging over the roadway.
16. 405 Giles Avenue – Mr. Bond will look at the tree that has rotten spots in front of this property.
17. 339 Lorraine Avenue – Mr. Gitler and Mr. Johnson will look at the tree in front of this property that reportedly has a lot of dead branches.
18. 639 Cook Avenue – Mr. Gitler and Mr. Johnson will look at this tree that resident is requesting pruned.
19. 101 Grandview Street – Reported in the Public Portion.
20. 710 Pershing Avenue – Mr. Bond will look at this tree that resident feels is dead.
21. 121 Jay Place -Mr. Gitler will look at the tree to see if it needs to be pruned or removed.
22. 280/282 Lincoln Boulevard – Commission reported that nothing is needed on the pear tree.
23. 210 Appian Street – Commission determined that nothing was needed to be done on the tree.
24. 317 Lorraine Avenue – Commission determined that the tree on the corner of Lorraine Ave. and Howard Ave. needs to be removed.
25. 501 Wellington Avenue – Commission determined that this tree will remain on pending status as it is a little unbalanced, as homeowner used a private contractor to remove lead, which is a violation.
26. 201 Chestnut Street – Mr. Johnson will look at this tree for an additional opinion.
27. 702 Cook Avenue – Commission feel that this dead oak needs to be removed ASAP.
28. 443 Runyon Avenue – Commission feels that this tree does not need to have anything done at this time but will keep it on a follow up matter.
29. 520 Walnut Street – Commission agreed to reduce branch over the house and roadway and do a crown reduction on the tree.

30. 342 First Street – Nothing needed to the tree.
31. 206 Walnut Street – Commission agreed to remove the low hanging branches.
32. 320 Walnut Street – Commission agreed to a removal of this tree (emerald ash borer) and replace.
33. 1245 Bound Brook Road (Washington Ave. side) – Commission agreed to remove dead maple tree.
34. 1 Fitzsimmons Street. – Commission agreed to remove dead ash tree on the Grandview side of this property.
35. 301 Decatur Avenue – Mr. Gitler will go out to look at the tree that is near the power lines.

Work Agenda

1. 421 Fulton Street – Mr. Bond will look at the sidewalk that was damaged by tree roots.
2. 350 Bound Brook Road – Commission determined that they will follow upon this Charlie Brown tree to determine if it is dead in the fall.
3. 313 First Street – Commission agreed to remove this tree.
4. 5 Dunlap Place – Mr. Bond will look at this tree that resident is requesting be pruned.
5. 617 Hazelwood Avenue – This tree has been removed.

Unfinished Business

1. Fall Planting /Arbor Day Tree – Mauger School – The commission agreed that the secretary should encumber \$500 for this planting, but that they will defer planting this tree until 2021 due to COVID.

New Business

1. Commission discussed caging the plantings that were done on Raritan Avenue, so that they are protected. The members will set up a date to redo this protection.
2. Chairman Bond requested that the members bring back locations for fall planting.
3. Mr. Gitler requested that if the borough receives any proposals for tree removals due to construction/redevelopment in the borough, that the Shade Tree Commission be required to look at the plans to make recommendations on the plantings.

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,
October 8, 2020 – 7:30 PM
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

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