

March 12, 2020
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 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 Special Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on December 5, 2019.

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

Secretary Linda Chismar

Chairman Bond opened the meeting to the public.

Sulma Marino, 202 Farragut Ave. attended the meeting for an update on her concern that she brought to the commission regarding the tree in front of her property. Mr. Gitler did look at the tree and indicated that he felt that it was not a danger and would need a trimming. The commission will also look at this tree again once has leafed out in the Spring. First, the secretary will also confirm that it is borough shade tree, as commissioners questioned the location of the tree.

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

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the February 13, 2020 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Gitler and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mr. Bond moved to approve the January & February, 2020 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Gitler and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Communications

1. 205 Union Avenue – Mr. Bond indicated that this ash tree has been infested with the emerald ash borer it should be removed.
2. 120 Lorraine Avenue – Resident at this property is concerned that the tree across from his property at 109 Lorraine Avenue is going to fall down. Mr. Bond looked at the red oak and felt that this tree only needed pruning once the buds start emerging in the spring.

3. 203 Maple Street – Mr. Johnson will go out to be sure that this tree is marked for removal.
4. Oak Drive – near Greenlawn Ave. – Ms. Turiak concerned about the vines growing up the sides on all the wires across from her property. Commission indicated that vines on the wires are the responsibility of PSE&G and the secretary will advise homeowner.

Work Agenda

1. 2 Benart Place – Commission feels that all the trees in front of property should get a dead wood prune and clean up around the wires.

Unfinished Business

1. 2020 Shade Tree Budget – Commission was advised that the secretary met with the Acting CFO and Administrator to discuss the 2020 budget and after review of the last 8 years of funds spent on Shade Tree there was a consensus that a budget of \$35,000 will be brought to the Council to request approval for the 2020 Shade Tree Budget. Also, at that meeting it was discussed that all borough trees will be brought by the DPW to the Shade Tree to evaluate, unless it is an emergent situation, which will go directly to the Administrator for approval.

New Business

1. Emerald Ash Borer Infested Trees – Mr. Bond recommended that we should deal with ash trees that may be infested with this issue on an individual basis. He does not feel that the trees should just be removed. If symptoms appear, the commission should assess the tree quickly to determine if it should be removed.
2. Arbor Day Event – Commission discussed holding an event for Arbor Day which includes possibly have the Forestry Club at Rutgers and the Shade Tree Commission plant seedlings. They will advise the secretary where the planting locations will be. The Shade Tree Secretary will check with the DPW to see if we have some chicken wire fencing or old snow fencing to use for seedlings planted by the Commission.

Also, the commission discussed handing out ½ of the seedlings at the Little League Field to Borough Residents. Mr. Johnson agreed to handle this event. .

3. Arbor Day Tree – Commission agreed to have Mr. Johnson check with the Mauger Environmental Club to install a Davidia Tree in the courtyard for Arbor Day and make a presentation regarding proper planting. Mr. Johnson will advise if he gets approval for this.

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,
April 9, 2020 – 7:30 PM
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

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