

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Martone at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, January 16, 2020. Also present were Mr. Beltramini, Mr. Englishman, Ms. Geist, Mr. Gubala, Mr. McMahon, Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, Mr. Kilman, Council Liaison, Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Mr. Melso, Mr. Rutkowski, and Mr. Schumacher were absent.

Mr. Martone announced that this meeting is being held in accordance with the Sunshine Laws of the State of New Jersey. Public notice of this meeting was published in the legal ads section of the BERGEN RECORD and the RIDGEWOOD NEWS on Friday, January 3, 2020.

Mr. Geist swore in Mr. Beltramini for a five-year term.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Martone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. McMahon nominated Mr. Melso as Chairman, seconded by Mr. Beltramini. There were no further nominations. Mr. Beltramini nominated Mr. McMahon as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr. Martone. There were no further nominations. Both nominations were unanimously approved by those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Beltramini, seconded by Mr. McMahon, the minutes of the November 21, 2019 meeting were unanimously accepted as received. The December meeting was cancelled.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Martone reported that Mr. Melso is doing well after his knee surgery.

Mr. Geist was congratulated on his appointment as a judge in Bogota.

COMMUNICATIONS

Minutes-

Board of Adjustment-September 18, 2019, November 20, 2019

Environmental Commission-October 8, 2019, November 12, 2019

Planning Board-November 5, 2019, December 3, 2019, December 17, 2019

Resolutions memorialized by the Planning Board at the December 3, 2019 and January 7, 2020 meetings

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT HEARING-None

SITE PLAN REVIEW

Konica Minolta, 101 Williams Drive, Block 3902, Lot 2

The project is almost finished. Marshall Fox extended an invitation to any Shade Tree Commissioners who would like to visit the property.

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS

Corner of Biscayne Drive and East Crescent Avenue

One tree still needs to be planted on Biscayne Drive. The building department will be contacted once the planting is done.

LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW

Ramsey Lumber, 575 Island Road, Block 3801, Lot 1

Mr. Beltramini reported that the trees have been planted and the site has been cleaned up and will be maintained. The display area will be left as is at this point. No updated landscape plan is needed at this time.

Ramsey Invest LLC, 70 Hilltop Road, Block 3702, Lot 4

Mr. Beltramini will visit the site with a drawing in hand. The dead junipers should be removed. Mr. Melso had previously noted that the trees on the perimeter of the parking lot need to be looked at.

LANDSCAPE BOND REVIEW-None

Mr. Beltramini initiated a discussion about the landscape bond review. Maintenance bonds are no longer posted by the Shade Tree Commission. Performance bonds have been rolled into the Planning Board. The Shade Tree Commission at this point has “no teeth.” A landscape plan must be part of the package and is part of the certificate of occupancy (CO). Someone should be inspecting the landscaping before the CO is issued. Mr. Geist will start the discussion again with the various borough attorneys. Councilman Kilman suggested that three signatures be required (representative of the Board of Adjustment, Planning Board, Shade Tree Commission) before a CO is issued.

PLANNING BOARD APPLICATION STATUS-None

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT APPLICATION STATUS-None

RESIDENTIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

All trees must be marked and there must be a decision about what to do with the stumps. The Commissioners were reminded to keep up with their residential inspections since everything is currently up to date.

320 Elbert Street-The tree will be elevated.

40 Rose Avenue-A dead tree will be dropped in Green Acres. Three trees will be elevated.

65 East Crescent Avenue-Two trees will be elevated, and the dead wood will be removed.

134 Elbert Street-The tree will be removed.

450 Elbert Street-The tree will be removed.

7 Goose Cove Lane-Two trees will be removed.

92 Chestnut Street-One tree will be removed.

26 North Central Avenue (municipal lot)-The stump will be ground.

60 Cleveland Street-The tree will be pruned and elevated.

399 Darlington Avenue-The stump will be ground.

377 South Central Avenue-Two trees will be removed.

12 May Court-Five trees will be elevated, and the dead wood will be removed.

154 North Spruce Street-Two trees will be removed.

223 Darlington Avenue (on Oak Ridge Road side)-The tree will be removed.

310 Elbert Street-The tree will be removed.

COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

Approval of the plan which was presented in October was tabled until further information can be gathered. Mr. Gubala is looking into the plan.

Regarding the trees which were hanging over the Bank of America property, they have been removed by the owner of 14 Mechanic Street.

OLD BUSINESS

The fall planting is complete by Downes Tree Service.

NEW BUSINESS

A tree was removed by Orange and Rockland at 44 Lakeview Terrace that was not marked by anyone from the Shade Tree Commission. It was a maple tree in the borough right-of-way. The stump is still there. A contact from O&R is needed. Mr. Trouf had gotten a name from O&R and he will follow up. Mr. McMahon will contact John Cirillo who no longer works for O&R.

Mr. Gubala reported that there are trees in Green Acres on Chestnut Street which might need to be trimmed or dropped. He and Mr. Martone will walk the site.

Large rocks were put around the circular drive at 70 Lake Street. There should be a landscape plan which can be checked.

PUBLIC COMMENT-None

Mr. Martone announced that the Public Comment portion of the meeting would last approximately five minutes per person.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Gubala, seconded by Mr. McMahon, and carried unanimously.

