

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, January 17, 2019. Also present were Mr. Beltramini, Mr. Englishman, Ms. Geist, Mr. Gubala, Mr. Martone, Mr. McMahon, Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, Mr. Kilman, Council Liaison, Mr. Knauss, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Mr. Rutkowski and Mr. Schumacher were absent.

Mr. Melso 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 on Saturday, December 8, 2018 and the RIDGEWOOD NEWS on Friday, December 14, 2018.

Mr. Geist swore in Ms. Geist, Mr. Gubala, and Mr. Melso.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Melso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Upon motion by Mr. Melso, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, and approved unanimously, the regular order of business was changed to allow for the election of chairman and vice-chairman. Mr. Martone nominated Mr. Melso as Chairman, seconded by Mr. Beltramini. There were no further nominations. Mr. McMahon nominated Mr. Martone as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr. Beltramini. There were no further nominations. Both nominations were unanimously approved by those in attendance. Upon motion by Mr. Gubala, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, and approved unanimously, the regular order of business was resumed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Martone, the minutes of the December 6, 2018 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Roger Knauss was welcomed to the Commission as the new Shade Tree Coordinator.

Mr. Martone walked Andrew Siemsen's Grove Street property as he requested at the December meeting. They discussed what could be removed and subsequently trees were taken out.

Mr. McMahon reported that there was an emergency removal of eighteen-caliper-inch oak at 418 Elizabeth Avenue.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Minutes-  
Planning Board-December 4, 2018

**TREE REMOVAL PERMIT HEARING-None****SITE PLAN REVIEW****Bank of America, 76 East Main Street**

Brightview Enterprise Solutions has been retained by Bank of America. Orlando Feliciano had been present at the September meeting with a revised landscape plan. He suggested that the project be done in the spring. Some of the varieties will be changed from the March 1974 plan. The maple tree on the center island will be removed. There are four trees on Spruce Street which are borough trees. Following removal, those stumps will be ground. Six large trees must come down; they are marked. Leland cypresses, western arborvitae, or boxwood were suggested replacements. All new plantings need to be trimmable. Irrigation will be added to the site. This project will be a total renovation. Little leaf lindens (Spruce side) and cherry trees (Prospect side) were suggested where there are wires. Spirea will be planted in front. There will be an evergreen hedge with some daylilies and liriope. The bank has some safety requirements for the ATM. A revised plan will be available at the February meeting.

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

This plan will be continued until construction is complete.

**TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS****Corner of Biscayne Drive and East Crescent Avenue**

Four trees were taken out by Mr. Dean and four trees should be going in. A permanent certificate of occupancy will not be issued by the borough's building department until the builder meets all of the Shade Tree requirements and the trees are planted.

**PDL, 25 North Spruce Street**

In July, Michael Inserra had been in attendance to discuss the removal of shrubs without approval. He reviewed what had happened on the site through the years. There was a landscape plan from 1964 which was referenced. Mr. Inserra noted that everything was removed fifteen years ago because of a contamination problem from an oil tank. He would like to put rocks on the site as Varka and Results Personal Health & Fitness have

done. Mr. Melso told him that rocks are not acceptable. One of the businesses is a dog groomer and he would like to make a small dog park, perhaps using ornamental grasses for screening. He noted that a summons has been issued by the Board of Health, so he is dealing with that board as well as Zoning and Shade Tree. Mr. Melso indicated that the remedy should begin with the Board of Health. Mr. Inserra will ask for guidance from them initially and then Shade Tree for planting suggestions. Mr. Gubala reiterated that he would like to see some planting done on the site. At the September meeting, Mr. Inserra shared a drawing which was not acceptable as a formal plan. He would like to duplicate what is now at the shopping center. He indicated that the Board of Health is waiting for input from the Shade Tree Commission. Since he was not in attendance at the January meeting, the project will continue to the February meeting.

## **LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW**

### **McDonald's, 846 Route 17N, Block 4702, Lot 2**

Martin Swaggard of Core States Group, representing the McDonald's Corporation, had been present at the August meeting. He reviewed the remodeling work which was done on the site, including the second drive-through lane. Parking spaces will be reduced from sixty-three to forty-eight because extra turning room is needed. The project is ADA-compliant. The percentage of greenspace is essentially unchanged. The existing beds are stone with landscaping. The island landscaping should be mulched with no stone. There will be new curbing on the island. Mr. Melso noted that there is no listing of what plantings currently exist on the site. For a complete landscaping plan, that information is needed. A new plan, including the island, was received on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Melso reported that the island is done, and the rocks are out. They are waiting until spring to finish the project.

### **495 North Franklin Turnpike**

In July, Donato D'Angelo and his son were present to discuss the removal of trees at the Franklin Turnpike site. There is a landscape plan which needs to be followed. He was told that if changes were made to that landscape plan, he would need to return to the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. D'Angelo indicated that trees on the site have been destroyed during storms. Salt-tolerant trees are needed. It was suggested that he secure a copy of the original plan from Mr. Smith so that he is aware of what should be on the site. The Shade Tree Commission will work with him to bring the site back to the way it should be. He was also told about the problem with water run-off from his property which is going on to the neighboring property at 503 North Franklin Turnpike. The Belgian blocks on his property need to be pitched in a different way to stop that run-off. Since he did not attend the January meeting, this project will be continued at the February meeting.

**Imperial Marble and Granite Co., 663 East Crescent Avenue, Block 4001, Lot 19**

At the October meeting, Tibor Latincsics, Conklin Associates, reported that the plan for the site is to construct a large concrete storage slab. There is a forested slope with no tree inventory since no trees will be removed. No trees will be removed in the open lawn area. He will return in February to make a formal presentation.

**Treehouse Pediatric, 100 and 106 North Franklin Turnpike, Block 4604, Lots 3, 4**

Brian Seidel, of John McDonough Associates, LLC, Morris Plains, was present to share the details of the project which has been approved by the Planning Board. Also in attendance regarding the project were Michelle Barredo, 303 Darlington Avenue, Ramsey, and Clint Lynch, 44 Upland Road, Ramsey. Mr. Seidel noted that there are 169 plants and 175 groundcovers proposed. There will be screening along the back and sides of the property. Plant materials were selected with an eye toward hardy and native species that are drought-tolerant and deer-resistant. A sidewalk will be eliminated on the south side of the building and will be replaced with buffer plantings, including Spartan Juniper. The plan is in compliance with regard to greenspace. The property will be fenced in and sprinklers are included in the plan. No trees will be removed. There may be room for a shade tree in front possibly a dwarf blue spruce. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, the project was unanimously approved, subject to submission of a revised plan.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Beltramini	X			
Mr. Gubala	X			
Mr. Martone, Vice-Chairman	X			
Mr. McMahan	X			
Mr. Rutkowski				X
Mr. Schumacher				X
Mr. Melso, Chairman	X			
Ms. Geist, Alt. 1	X			
Mr. Englishman, Alt. 2	X			

**Ramsey Auto Group, 69 Spring Street, Block 3601, Lot 1**

Jim Jaworski of Wells, Jaworski, and Liebman, Paramus, was in attendance to present the details of the plan for the service facility at the Spring Street/Orchard Street location. Also in attendance was Frank Minervini of the Ramsey Auto Group. The project has been approved by the Planning Board. Some greenspace has been added to the site. Brittney Hunter of Greenbelt Landscapes Inc. was present to share the landscape details. The air conditioning units and parking spaces will be taken out, replaced with landscaping, increasing the landscaping by about three percent. The foundation plantings will be resilient and deer-resistant. The site will be made more attractive. There will be

irrigation. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. McMahon, the landscape plan was unanimously approved. The greenspace percentage should be on the plan. The site plan from Conklin Associates also needs to be submitted. Mr. Minervini was questioned about other Ramsey Auto Group sites. He will meet with members of the Shade Tree Commission to discuss the issues with those other sites.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Beltramini			X	
Mr. Gubala	X			
Mr. Martone, Vice-Chairman	X			
Mr. McMahon	X			
Mr. Rutkowski				X
Mr. Schumacher				X
Mr. Melso, Chairman	X			
Ms. Geist, Alt. 1	X			
Mr. Englishman, Alt. 2	X			

**LANDSCAPE BOND REVIEW-None**

**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 conveyed to Mr. Knauss about what to do with the stumps.

**24 Mohawk Drive**-There is a branch hanging down which needs to be cut.

**322 Elizabeth Avenue**-One oak needs to be elevated and dead wood removed.

**428 Shadyside Road**-The resident would like the trees trimmed and dead branches removed. Two oaks were marked for elevation.

**9 Brittany Court**-The resident would like some branches removed.

**19 Biscayne Drive**-There are branches overhanging the power lines.

**126 Norman Drive**-The resident thinks he has a dead borough tree. The tree has been marked with a red "X."

**157 Canterbury Drive**-Trees will be removed; they need to be marked.

**4 Twinbrook Court**-One maple will be removed; the stump will be ground.

**320 Elbert Street**-The resident is concerned about dead branches.

**15 Cobblestone Lane**-One maple will be removed; the stump will be ground.

**2 Pulis Lane**-The trees in questions are on South Central Avenue. The DPW will remove branches from the wires and trim the trees.

**6 Arrowhead Court**-The resident is concerned about trees in Green Acres. Mr. Trouf will check and advise.

**205 Momar Drive**-The trees should leaf out in the spring. They will be put on the watch list.

**16 May Court**-One maple will be removed; the stump will be ground.

**49 Kelleher Avenue**-The dead tree in Green Acres will be dropped and left on site.

**16 Column Court**-The resident would like a tree removed.

**2 Highwood Drive**-Two oaks are marked for elevation and dead wood removal.

**42 Addison Way**-Tree removal was placed on work order #4.

**4 Quail Run**-There is a dead tree on the North Central Avenue side, but it is not a borough tree.

**Across from 7 and 9 Greenview Place**-Dead and broken branches will be removed.

**110 East Main Street**-The dead tree will be removed.

## COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

The Shade Tree Commissioners continue to check their assigned areas.

## OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Melso thanked the committee which worked on the job requirements for the Shade Tree Coordinator position.

Mr. Knauss will handle the paperwork for the Tree City USA submission.

There is an outstanding bill from Downes Tree Service. The trees were not up to the specs. The DPW will fill the gator bags.

The tree at the Addison Place/Island Road project was not removed. The tree in question will continue to be watched.

The replacement tree list was finalized. Mr. Knauss and Borough Administrator Vozeh will be working on a New Jersey grant for those trees.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. and Mrs. Fullam were present to share the details leading up to the removal of the oak, a borough tree, at 418 Elizabeth Avenue. They had an issue with their sewer line on January 1<sup>st</sup>. When looking for the sewer line, it was found that it went right through the root ball of that oak. Mr. Fullam noted that approximately half of the tree did not leaf in the spring and the tree was dying. He said that he did call the borough for assistance. The tree was removed by Chris Fix on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Following discussion, it was decided that no decision will be made until the arborist's report is received. A determination should be made at the February meeting.

Mr. Melso spoke with Mr. Vozeh about the possibility of having a Shade Tree Commissioner on the Planning Board. There are several options which will be discussed with Mayor Dillon.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT-None**

Mr. Melso 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 9:36 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, and carried unanimously.

