

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 7:32 p.m., Thursday, January 19, 2023. Also present were Mr. Englishman, Ms. Geist, Mr. Gubala, Mr. Martone, Mr. McMahon, Mr. Rutkowski, Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, Ms. Cusick, Council Liaison, Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Mr. Beltramini 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 Wednesday, December 7, 2022 and the RIDGEWOOD NEWS on Friday, December 9, 2022.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Melso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

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

Mr. Geist swore in Mr. Englishman, Ms. Geist, Mr. McMahon, and Mr. Rutkowski. Mr. Schumacher still needs to be sworn in.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. McMahon, the minutes of the November 17, 2022 meeting were unanimously accepted as received. The December meeting was cancelled.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

A Mitsubishi plan has been sent to the Planning Board, but it is not yet on the agenda.

Mr. McMahon referred to Borough Ordinance 753 which still has the former price per tree on the website despite an approved increase. Mr. Trouf noted that the amended ordinance is at a different place on the website since it takes some time for ordinances to be updated.

Arbor Day 2023 is Friday, April 28th. A suggestion was made to check with Superintendent of Schools Andrew Matteo.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

Councilwoman Cusick wished everyone a happy new year. The borough's reorganization on Wednesday, January 3rd, went well. Glen Popolo is the new councilman, replacing Harry Weber. The Planning Board will be led by Chairman Roger Iorio and Vice-Chairman Joe Carey. She was elected board secretary.

She noted that Shade Tree's collaboration with DPW is fiscally responsible and appreciated by the governing body.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board of Adjustment-October 19, 2022, November 16, 2022
Planning Board minutes-October 1, 2022
Special Ash Tree Removal Quotes
Arborist Report-27 and 47 Oakridge Road

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS-None

SITE PLAN REVIEW-None

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS-None

LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW**The Wash Club, 506 Route 17, Block 5102, Lot 5**

At the October meeting, the revised plan (revision dates-9/27/2022, 9/30/2022, 10/6/2022) was unanimously accepted. Mr. McMahon checked their landscape plan against their sketch, and everything is in order. They would like to tweak the mulch beds for the Zelkova. Additionally, they have a 12-foot by 128-foot area with a fifteen percent grade where they are trying to grow grass. However, they will be submitting an addendum to their landscaping plan, requesting permission to put stone in that area by Model Electronics. It was noted that there are several businesses in the borough which do have stone. According to Ordinance 753, 20-3.11, no stone is permitted. Mr. Englishman provided a hands-on display of stone samples which were discussed, particularly the sizes of the stones from one to six inches. If the ordinance is amended to allow stone, it must be well-defined. The issue was tabled until an upcoming meeting. Mr. McMahon will work on a modified amendment with stones ranging from three to six inches, with an area that is maintained and weed-free through the utilization of a weed barrier.

RESIDENTIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

All trees must be marked and there must be a decision about what to do with the stumps. Mr. Trouf also included the tree work which is being done by DPW and a list of stump grinding. Work order #1 is done. Chris Fix is working on the stump grinding.

2023-Work order #1

32 High Street-Two trees will be trimmed and shaped.

94 Oak Ridge Road-The tree will be removed.

4 Lillian Court-The triple trunk tree will be removed.

119 Arch Street (Finch Street side)-The tree will be removed.

129 Ramview Avenue-The tree will be removed.

40 High Street-The tree will be removed.

42 Oxford Court-Three trees will be removed; one tree will be elevated.

15 Lillian Court-One tree will be removed; dead wood will be removed from two other trees.

8 Briarcliff Court-Four trees will be elevated.

10 and 26 Harlind Terrace-One tree will be elevated at each location.

310 Canterbury Drive-The tree will be removed.

245 Shadyside Road-The tree will be removed.

10 Buckingham Drive-Branches from two trees will be trimmed from the wires.

244 Myrtle Avenue-The double trunk ash tree will be removed.

45 Center Street-The tree will be removed.

101 Mayfair Drive-The tree will be removed.

449 Island Road-The tree will be removed.

72 Carol Street-The tree will be removed.

29 East Cedar Place-Two trees will be trimmed.

108 East Oak Street-The tree will be elevated, and dead wood will be removed.

Grind stumps-2023

2 Mayfair Drive

94 Oak Ridge Road

139 Sherwood Drive

6 Donna Court

101 Broad Street

16 Momar Drive

11 Column Court

4 Lillian Court

119 Arch Street

129 Ramview Avenue

40 High Street

310 Canterbury Drive

245 Shadyside Road

95 Elm Avenue

244 Myrtle Avenue

45 Center Street

101 Mayfair Drive

449 Island Road

72 Carol Street

Work order #2

311 East Crescent Avenue-The tree will be elevated and trimmed.

39 Lakeview Terrace-The tree will be elevated, and dead wood will be removed.

27 and 47 Oakridge Road-Per Mr Milde, arborist, both trees will be cut back approximately 20 feet to an upright limb at least 1/3 the diameter of the limb being cut.

15 Manor Drive-Dead limbs will be removed.

113 Momar Drive (Aspen Place side)-A broken branch and another branch will be removed.

443 North Central Avenue (Park Street side)-The tree will be removed.

COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

Regarding **69, 87, and 99 Spring Street**, Mr. Jaworski and Mr. Geist have spoken several times about a reasonable restitution amount for the removal of the thirty-six trees but nothing has been finalized. They will speak again.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding the removal of ash trees due to the emerald ash borer, the list was included in the monthly packet. If dead ash trees are observed at a residence in the borough, Mr. Trouf should be informed. He will send the homeowner a letter about the hazardous tree/trees which should be taken down.

Mr. Trouf had prepared a budget proposal in the amount of \$236,000 which had been submitted to Denise Bartalotta, Borough CFO. The amount for the temporary budget is \$223,000. Mr. McMahon noted that the spring tree planting should be part of the February agenda. A list has been started.

At the November meeting, there was a discussion about raising the tree removal permit fee from \$25. Mr. Melso shared his research from the surrounding towns. Some towns have no fees. Ridgewood charges \$50 per tree and the tree must be replaced. It was noted that Ramsey allows six trees to be removed before the \$25 permit fee is charged. Mr. Gubala suggested a charge of \$10 per tree to a maximum of \$100. Following discussion, the issue was tabled.

Mr. Melso observed that the trees on Lake Street in Upper Saddle River are trimmed differently by Orange & Rockland than Ramsey's hacked trees are. Mr. Trouf's O&R contact is Kate Wysokowski. Mr. Melso would like to meet with her either at a Shade Tree Commission meeting or in the O&R office.

NEW BUSINESS-None**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

Brian Dillon, 129 Ramview Avenue, was present to volunteer his services to the Shade Tree Commission. He was instructed to complete the necessary volunteer form.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Gubala, seconded by Mr. Martone, and carried unanimously.