

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, January 20, 2022. Also present were Mr. Beltramini, Mr. Englishman, Mr. Gubala, Mr. Martone, Mr. Schumacher, Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, Ms. Cusick, Council Liaison, Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Ms. Geist, Mr. McMahon, and Mr. Rutkowski 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 Thursday, December 23, 2021 and the RIDGEWOOD NEWS on Friday, December 24, 2021.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Melso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, the minutes of the November 18, 2021 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Melso welcomed Ms. Cusick to the Shade Tree Commission as Council Liaison.

He also shared that Barbara Smith, wife of the former Shade Tree Coordinator, Harry Smith, passed away in December. Mrs. Dey will send a card from the Commission to Mr. Smith.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board of Adjustment minutes-October 20, 2021
Planning Board minutes-November 3, 2021

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS-None

SITE PLAN REVIEW**New Flex Wash, 506 Route 17N, Block 5102, Lot 5**

The plan was available for Commission review. Its status with the Planning Board will be checked.

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS-None

Mr. Melso reported that Mr. Barone of 91 Sherwood Drive passed away recently.

LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW**Brothers/Chilis, 900 Route 17N, Block 4702, Lot 1.01**

Regarding Brothers/Chilis, Landscape Architect Len DiTomaso, 30 Franklin Avenue, Oakland, presented the landscape plan for the project. It will be done in two phases within the calendar year, with completion dates of May 15, 2022 and October 15, 2022. The request for more than one phase had come from Ms. Sarna. Mr. DiTomaso has a contract for phase one, which was marked in blue on the plan. Some trees will be added to the front of the site. He has selected deer-resistant plants. Quite a bit of plant material can be moved and transplanted. In phase one, the beds will be cleared and mulched, getting them ready for phase two. All of the overgrown material will be removed which he delineated. There is outdoor seating which may be expanded. The four ash trees will be removed and must be replaced before May 15th. The Commission should be informed of what will be going in place of the ash trees. The Bradford pear trees in the islands also need to be trimmed as part of the spring project. Deciduous trees will be planted in both phases and need to be wrapped with guards to protect them from the deer. The site will be irrigated. Irrigation will go in after the plantings in each phase. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, and approved unanimously, the project as presented must be completed in two phases, by May 15, 2022 and October 15, 2022. Ms. Sarna does know the cost of what is involved. Mr. Geist will send the appropriate letter to Ms. Sarna, copying Mr. DiTomaso, letting her know what the Commission approved. If this plan is not completed as approved, the original process as discussed at prior meetings could be activated. Ms. Sarna was informed that the borough can and will take on the landscaping project if she does not complete it. That proposal would ultimately need to be approved by the borough. If the Shade Tree Commission does the work, there would be a tax lien on the property.

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

RESIDENTIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

All trees must be marked and there must be a decision about what to do with the stumps. Chris Fix is under contract until April, 2022.

Work Order #1

11 Van Gelder Court-Large trunks will be stacked off property.

463 Island Road-The tree will be removed (O&R).

57 Momar Drive-The tree will be removed (O&R); trimming will be done over the driveway.

265 Norman Drive-The tree will be removed.

15 Lantern Lane-Two trees will be elevated.

114 Maple Street (rear DPW property)-Two trees will be removed; the stumps will not be ground.

86 Fuhrman Avenue-Dead wood will be pruned.

70 Fuhrman Avenue-Two trees will be pruned.

280 West Oak Street-The tree will be removed.

6 Valley View Drive-Three trees will be elevated, and the dead wood will be removed.

251 South Central Avenue-One tree will be pruned, elevated, and cabled; one tree will be pruned and elevated.

21 Sauna Road-Two trees will be removed.

35 Monroe Street-Five trees will be removed, and two stumps will be ground.

34 School Street-The tree will be removed.

1 Shadyside Road-The tree will be removed.

75 Ackerman Avenue-Two trees will be elevated.

236 Shadyside Road-The declining tree will be removed and flush cut.

113, 121, 124, 128, and 131 Fuhrman Avenue-The trees will be elevated, and the dead wood will be removed.

19 Hosking Way-Three dead ash trees will be removed.

20 Brookside Avenue-The dead ash tree will be removed.

27 Oakridge Road-The damaged Red Oak tree will be removed.

Ronald Court-Branches hanging over the roadway will be trimmed.

52 Elbert Court-Two trees (behind in the soccer field) will be removed.

183 East Main Street (Island Road side)-The tree will be removed.

299 East Main Street (Memorial Park)-Two trees will be elevated and the dead wood will be removed. The second trunk will be removed for better balance.

11 Joshua Drive-Two broken limbs will be removed.

63 North Spruce Street-The tree will be removed.

329 Elbert Street-The branches hanging over the swing set (Green Acres) will be trimmed.

COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

Regarding **Ramsey Mitsubishi, 1355 Route 17S, Block 3804, Lot 1**, there are still cars on the island. A revised site plan is supposed to be given to the Planning Board by March 1st.

Regarding the Amoco gas station on Route 17S, Mr. Trouf will send a letter regarding their landscaping. They did not complete the convenience store which is why they came to the Shade Tree Commission in the first place. They did put up their sign, actually on their neighbor's property.

The retention basin project on Lake Street has been completed but the site has not yet been cleaned up.

The plan for the area in the DOT right-of-way which Volvo is willing to maintain had been presented by Mr. Jaworski in November and is still being pursued. Rather than the Department of Transportation, a right-of-way committee would be looking into the issue.

OLD BUSINESS-None

NEW BUSINESS

In observance of Arbor Day, April 29, 2022, a dawn redwood will be planted in a wet area at the Ramsey pool area. A horseshoe pit is going in by the bocce courts at the pool as an Eagle Scout project which may impact the eventual tree location. The best location for the tree will be ascertained.

Colin Milde is the new arborist for the borough. Kris Hasbrouck has retired and moved from the borough. He will be given a plaque.

Mr. Melso noted that Wawa is moving forward with their project. They came before the Shade Tree Commission in 2014-2015. Mr. Geist reviewed what has transpired with the project, noting that Wawa was given the right to build. The landscape plan was not approved by Shade Tree and any current arguments will probably not come before the Commission. The issue will be discussed further in February.

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 8:31 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, and carried unanimously.