

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the January meeting for the public was held via teleconference. Masks were worn and social distancing was practiced by those Shade Tree Commissioners in borough hall. The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, January 21, 2021. Also present were Mr. Beltramini (via telephone), Mr. Englishman (via telephone), Ms. Geist (via telephone), Mr. Gubala (via telephone), Mr. Martone, Mr. McMahon, Mr. Schumacher (via telephone), Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney (via telephone), Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Mr. Rutkowski and Mr. Kilman, Council Liaison, 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 and the RIDGEWOOD NEWS on Friday, December 25, 2020.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Melso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Martone nominated Mr. Melso as Chairman, seconded by Mr. McMahon. There were no further nominations. Mr. Melso 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. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Schumacher, the minutes of the November 19, 2020 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Regarding the project with seven homes on Sunrise Terrace, the project is not complete so Shade Tree's trees cannot be put in yet. All of the trees will go in at the same time. Mr. Martone and Mr. Smith have received the e-mails regarding return of funds if the trees do not go in.

Mr. Englishman noted that Chris Fix needs a policy put in place regarding removal of trees in Green Acres. Mr. Fix is including a letter about the issue with his latest invoice. It is his feeling that live trees should not be taken down in Green Acres unless they pose a problem to a home, a pool, or the like. He would also like Green Acres lines delineated. Mr. McMahon will be checking out some applicable properties on Brittany Court and

North Central Avenue. Residents cannot take down trees in Green Acres. If they do, that would be a borough issue.

Mr. Gubala and Mr. McMahon met with the representatives of the Ramsey Golf and Country Club. Len DiTomaso is removing large hemlocks and putting in replacement trees. They are cleaning up the debris on site. The new valve has been installed so the lake can be filled up again. The Ramsey Golf and Country Club does, in fact, come under the Shade Tree ordinances despite their contention that they have agricultural status. It was noted that Clint Lynch's property is agricultural, so that property does not come under Shade Tree.

Mr. Beltramini reported that both audio and video need to be available for testimony, according to Matt Rogers, Board of Adjustment attorney. Mr. Geist indicated that there is no clear mandate at this point.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Planning Board minutes-November 17, 2020, December 15, 2020

## TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS

### **Janna and Bill McMahon, 8 Vaughn Drive, Block 1102, Lot 4**

Ms. Geist met with the homeowners regarding the removal of fifteen trees, half are dead and two are leaning. The removals are for a pool. Several trees will be left standing. Len DiTomaso has a landscaping plan for the property. Mahwah Tree Service will be doing the work. Upon motion by Ms. Geist, seconded by Mr. McMahon, the removal of fifteen trees was unanimously approved.

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

**Craig and Elisa Zurlini, 7 Alida Place, Block 1602, Lot 3**

Mr. Martone walked the property and is in favor of the removal of the forty-four trees. The side yard is not useful at this point; the family wants to use it as a lawn area for their children. There is an existing pool. The trees, mostly spruces, white pines, maples, and ashes, are marked for removal. There are lots of deer in the area, so Mr. Melso suggested that they work with their landscaper to select deer-resistant plantings. They will be re-establishing privacy in a horticulturally sensitive manner. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Englishman, the removal of forty-four trees was unanimously approved.

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

**Andrew and Kimberly Laurino, 341 Grove Street, Block 1201, Lot 7.01**

Mr. Martone visited the site, and all of the forty-nine trees are marked and numbered. Their removal will allow for the clean up of the property so that the property beyond the pool can be used. Mr. Englishman concurred with the removals; the trees are in sad shape. This home is adjacent to the Gretchen Dater Park. Top Notch will be doing the work. There are no spotted lanternflies on the property. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Englishman, the removal of forty-nine trees was unanimously approved.

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

**SITE PLAN REVIEW**

Mr. Beltramini noted that there is no irrigation, topsoil, or grass seed at Pep Boys so no CO will be given. If they cannot do the work because of the weather, they can get a temporary CO.

**TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS-None****LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW****Ramsey Invest LLC, 70 Hilltop Road, Block 3702, Lot 4**

Mr. Beltramini needs to re-visit the site with the landscaping plan. The dead trees on the perimeter of the parking lot should be looked at. There are a number of issues which must be addressed. Additionally, there is some newly-observed dead plant material.

**Lorico Real Estate (Property owner for Brothers Barbecue), 900 Route 17N, Block 4702, Lot 1.01**

Mr. McMahon received a call from Len DiTomaso which had been contacted by Naomi Sarna, the owner of the property. Mr. DiTomaso will develop a landscaping plan for the site which will be presented in February.

**Peach Hill Condos, Block 4001, Lot 16.01**

Mr. McMahon has taken the lead on this project. There has been a lot of back and forth with the property management company. They wanted to hire the Slevin Group in Boonton, a building management company, which is not a state-licensed landscaping company. They sub-contract the majority of their work so Peach Hill will need to find another company since a certified landscape owner/operator is needed due to the scope of the project. They will attend the February meeting.

**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. Chris Fix has finished Work Order #7 from 2020.

Work Order #1 (2021)

**115 Refy Avenue (at Elizabeth Avenue)-The stump will be ground.**

**270 Shadyside Road**-The double trunk tree will be removed.

**8 Carriage Lane (across the street)**-The tree will be removed.

**426 Elizabeth Avenue**-The tree will be removed.

**96 DeBaun Avenue**-Two trees will be removed.

**307 Lakeside Drive**-The tree will be removed.

**3 Clearwater Road**-The tree will be elevated.

**15 Candlelight Road**-Branches will be trimmed from the lamp post.

**Between 15 and 19 Candlelight Road**-A branch will be removed in Green Acres.

**56 Maple Street (Cleveland Street side)**-The tree will be removed, and the stump will be ground.

**7 Alida Place**-The stump will be ground.

**20 Column Court (Behind in Green Acres)**-The tree will be dropped and the stump will be left.

**86 Orchard Place**-The tree will be removed.

**Carol Street/Chestnut Street (Bike Path)**-One tree will be removed and the stump will be left.

**27 Eton Court**-The branches of one tree will be trimmed from the wires.

Mr. Englishman will e-mail Mr. Troup the addresses of locations where he found emerald ash borer. Mr. Englishman also asked about Clint Lynch's plans for his property which Mr. Troup enumerated. There is a site plan for the project. If Mr. Lynch is going from farmland to residential, he would need street trees. He can either plant the trees himself or pay \$550 per tree for Shade Tree to plant them.

## **COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS**

Mr. Englishman requested the plan for Uncle Giuseppe's to ascertain what is missing on the site.

A reminder letter regarding the frontage trees at Lexus needs to be sent with a completion date.

The owner of the Ramsey Inn will be invited to the February meeting for assistance with his landscaping.

**OLD BUSINESS**-None

**NEW BUSINESS**-None

**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 8:32 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Gubala, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, and carried unanimously.

