

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, March 21, 2019. Also present were Mr. Beltramini, Mr. Englishman (arrived at 8:07 p.m.), Ms. Geist, Mr. Gubala (arrived at 8:15 p.m.), Mr. Martone, Mr. McMahon, Mr. Rutkowski, Mr. Schumacher, Commission members, Mr. Knauss, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, 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 on Saturday, December 8, 2018 and the RIDGEWOOD NEWS on Friday, December 14, 2018.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Melso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Martone, the minutes of the February 21, 2018 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Martone reported that the cars which were improperly parked on Route 17 are now back where they belong.

Mr. Melso noted that the cars have been removed from what was the Cury's site.

COMMUNICATIONS

Minutes-
Environmental Commission-January 8, 2019
Planning Board-February 5, 2019

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 returned with a revised landscape plan. All new plantings need to be trimmable. The heights of the plant material need to meet federal safety requirements.

The project will be a total renovation. Fifty arborvitae are proposed by the drive-through as a screening for the neighbors. Spirea is planned for the area across from the arborvitae. On the islands, more spirea as well as daylilies are proposed. Along the Spruce Street side, Nellie Stevens hollies are suggested which will be kept pruned. On the Prospect Street side, Green Giant arborvitae will be planted. All plantings should be deer resistant. Four borough trees are going in, probably between May 15th and June 15th.

Irrigation is part of the plan and will be done as soon as possible. Currently the plan is to do the lighting first, followed by the irrigation. Mulch will be put down. Mr. Beltramini suggested using Pacifica juniper instead of lirioppe on the Spruce Street side. Mr. Feliciano was told that his plan must include block and lot because the drawing will become a legal document. Brightview handles snow plowing. They push the snow away from the handicapped parking spots, hauling it away, if necessary. The plan was not approved at the meeting. It will be approved when the discussed changes are made, and the irrigation proposal is finalized.

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

This plan will be continued until construction is complete. Mr. McMahon is keeping an eye on the construction.

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 Mr. Inserra was not able to attend the March meeting, the project will continue to the April 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 17th. 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, Block 3802, Lot 4

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 March meeting, this project will be continued at the April meeting.

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

Mr. Latincsics informed the Shade Tree Commission that the project is not going forward.

Maywoods Grove Two, LLC, 213 Grove Street, Block 1402, Lots 6 & 7

Andrew Siemsen, 12 May Court, was present to explain what is planned for the Grove Street site as he makes the two lots better building lots. His plan has been submitted to

the Planning Board. Mr. Martone has walked the site with Mr. Siemsen. There are eight dry wells on the property which were required by the borough engineer. The list of trees does not match the plan. There is a labeling program. He will return in April with a readjusted plan/tree list as he clarifies the plan with Tibor Latincsis of Conklin Associates.

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.

211 South Central Avenue-The county will remove one tree and grind the stump; the contractor will trim one tree.

72 West Main Street-The county will remove one maple tree.

4 Brittany Court-The maple tree in the front needs to be checked.

223 Darlington Avenue-The tree on the side of house needs to be trimmed; it needs to be determined if it is a borough tree.

345 Elbert Street-Someone took a look last year, but nothing has been done.

109 High Street-The tree in front needs trimming.

25 Monroe Street-A tree needs trimming.

131 Momar Drive-There are two trees with branches hanging down.

256 Davidson Avenue-A tree needs branches removed.

67 Bedford Place-Two trees on Fairhaven Drive need to be trimmed.

COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

The Shade Tree Commissioners continue to check their assigned areas. The landscaping at Don Bosco High School has some issues which need to be checked.

OLD BUSINESS

The replacement tree list was finalized. Mr. Knauss and Borough Administrator Vozech are working on the New Jersey grant for those trees. Related paperwork, entitled "Quotation Request for the furnishing and installation of Shade Trees," was reviewed and corrections were made.

The check for 418 Elizabeth Avenue has been received.

The details for the "Trees are Terrific" poster contest have been finalized. Students in kindergarten through grade three at Hubbard, Tisdale, and St. Paul's will be invited to submit a poster. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. McMahan, and approved unanimously, the first-place winners in each grade from each school will receive a twenty-five dollar gift card.

	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				
Mr. Englishman, Alt. 2				

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 9:23 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Gubala, and carried unanimously.

