

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 7:31 p.m., Thursday, June 15, 2023. Also present were Mr. Englishman, Ms. Geist, Mr. Martone, Mr. Schumacher, Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Mr. Beltramini, Mr. Gubala, Mr. McMahan, Mr. Rutkowski, and Ms. Cusick, 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 Wednesday, December 7, 2022 and the RIDGEWOOD NEWS on Friday, December 9, 2022.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Melso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Schumacher, the minutes of the May 18, 2023 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

The new trees are all in and are of good quality. The Commissioners will check the trees in their zones to see if they are all staked. The homeowners were asked to fill the gator bags; DPW will also fill the bags.

Ms. Geist noted that the area across from the Interstate Shopping Center exit on Franklin Turnpike is looking bad. A letter had been sent to Gene Royzman, the owner of the property, but it was returned. Another letter will be sent.

On Tuesday, June 20th, a New Resident Mixer is scheduled at the pool, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Shade Tree Commissioners in attendance will distribute a handout with information taken from the recent newsletter.

Information about the spotted lanternfly traps will be put on the borough website prior to their availability on Friday, June 30th.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

Mr. Melso read Councilwoman Cusick's e-mail. She introduced two ordinances for consideration at the Wednesday, June 14th work session meeting of the governing body, Ordinance 6-2023 (Amending Chapter 20-3.12 of the Borough Shade Tree Code Substitutions) and Ordinance 7-2023 (Amending Chapter 20-5.13 of the Borough Shade

Tree Code Replacement and Treatment of Trees Removed or Damaged in Violation of this Section).

She made the following comments regarding 6-2023: The previous condition was that there was no allowance for stone as groundcover for commercial applications. This ordinance adds in the ability for the use of stone as groundcover in commercial landscaping applications with approval of the Shade Tree Commission. Review would be on a project-by-project basis. The ordinance also provides guidance on types of stone and the types of applications where stone may be an acceptable substitution subject to Shade Tree review and approval.

She made the following comments regarding 7-2023: This is an amendment to an existing ordinance. The previous language had only the owner responsible to replace the trees in the event of a violation and a need to replace trees removed in violation of the code. The new language, in addition to owner, adds the contractor, landscaper, and tree removal service to the code. This will facilitate replacement of trees taken down in violation but also aid property owners who may have hired a contractor who violated the tree removal process but then attempted to push replacement on the property owner as responsible under the old language.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board of Adjustment-April 19, 2023

Planning Board-May 2, 2023

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS

43 West Oak Street, Block 2701, Lot 14

The request was for the removal of four dead beech trees and five other trees in serious decline. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Englishman, the removal of nine trees was unanimously approved.

	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

SITE PLAN REVIEW-None

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS

54 North Franklin Turnpike, Block 4703, Lot 1.1

No one was present to represent the property. A letter will be sent. The issue will continue to the July meeting.

LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW

Evergreen Child Academy, 14-18 North Spruce Street, Block 4810, Lot 16

Katie Razin, of Wells, Jaworski, & Liebman, LLP, and Tibor Latincsics, of Conklin Associates, were present to share the plan for the landscaping for Evergreen Child Academy, the former Chase Bank site. The plan has been approved by the Planning Board. The drive-thru is being eliminated but the canopy will remain and function as an entry. The right rear corner of the site will remain a lawn area where the children will play. The ornamental cherry trees in the front will be relocated. The curblin between the academy and Varka will be rebuilt, with a sawtooth curblin with granite block curbing, creating planting pockets, which will be mulched, corresponding to the sixteen parking spots. It is hoped that the white stone can be replaced; they will speak with Varka. Green Giant Arborvitae will be planted within each planting pocket. They will be cared for so that they do not overgrow. There will be a slight increase in greenspace. Snow can be put in the back left corner of the property. There will be five or six employees with a dentist on the second floor. Borough Engineer D’Agostaro will be asked about curbside parking. Arborist Milde will be asked about the oak tree which is straddling the right-of-way. It needs aerial attention. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Englishman, the plan was unanimously approved, subject to submission of a complete plant list.

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

RESIDENTIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

All curbs 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. It was noted that they are doing an excellent job for the borough. Chris Fix is working on work order #5.

Work order #5

Woodland Avenue and Fuhrman Avenue (Green Acres)-The tree will be dropped.

8 Cobblestone Lane-The tree will be removed.

91 Maple Street (Broad Street side)-The tree will be removed.

193 Canterbury Drive-The tree will be removed.

50 Williams Drive-The tree will be removed.

60 East Crescent Avenue-The branch hanging over the service wire will be trimmed.

143 Nottingham Road-Two trees will be elevated, and the dead wood will be removed.

56 Fuhrman Avenue-One oak will be pruned and elevated.

47 Fuhrman Avenue-The dead ash tree will be removed.

192 Woodland Avenue (Fuhrman Avenue side)-The dead oak tree will be removed.

196 North Spruce Street (behind and just over the fence)-The tree will be dropped.

96 Shadyside Road-The tree will be removed.

25 North Central Avenue (Police Station)-Two trees will be removed.

15 Quail Run-The tree will be removed.

21 Roandis Court-The stump will be ground.

127 Twinbrook Court-The stump will be ground.

DPW Tree Work #3

9 Allison Way (borough property)-The dead tree will be pulled out.

21 Roandis Court-The tree will be removed.

COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

Mr. Melso reminded the Commissioners to keep an eye on the commercial properties in their zones, especially on Route 17.

Regarding **The Store on Main Street, Block 4903, Lot 7**, a letter was sent. The owner contacted Mr. Trouf, explained that he had knee replacement surgery, and was given an extension until Thursday, June 1st. He contacted Mr. Trouf on Wednesday, June 7th and indicated that the requested work should be done within two weeks.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding **900A Route 17N (Brothers Barbeque)**, the closing has been delayed. Nonetheless, the agreement with the Shade Tree Commission will continue to be upheld and the closing cannot take place without it. The full amount for the landscaping and irrigation, \$37,423.67, will be put in escrow.

Regarding **69, 87, and 99 Spring Street**, the check for \$7,500 has not yet been received. Mr. Geist will follow up. The \$7,500 is not a donation but rather is a settlement. This matter should be wrapped up by the July meeting.

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 8:12 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Englishman, and carried unanimously.

