RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, February 16, 2023. Also present were Mr. Beltramini, Mr. Englishman, Ms. Geist, Mr. Martone, Mr. McMahon, Mr. Rutkowski, Mr. Schumacher, Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, Ms. Cusick, Council Liaison, Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Mr. Gubala was 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.

Mr. Geist swore in Mr. Schumacher.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Melso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, the minutes of the January 19, 2023 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

The southern ramp to Route 17 will be closed for approximately a month. The drainage is being improved. The area has been thoroughly cleaned. It would be a perfect time to plant new trees.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

The deadline for the next issue of the *Ramsey Journal* is Friday, March 17th. Possible topics could include the number of ash trees which have been taken down in the borough, the plans for Arbor Day, information about the spotted lanternfly, and the tree removal policy of only six trees without a permit. Mr. Martone will write the article, assisted by Councilwoman Cusick.

Regarding the 2023 budget, Wednesday, April 12th is the date for the public hearing and the vote. Councilwoman Cusick highlighted some of the budget concerns. She did not have an amount for the Shade Tree budget but it is expected that the amount will be the same as 2022. Josh Gottheimer presented a grant workshop regarding federal funds which Mayor Dillon attended.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board of Adjustment-December 21, 2022
Planning Board minutes-December 6, 2022, January 17, 2023

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS

39 Upland Road, Block 1701, Lot 8.01

Michael Allen would like to take out more trees than originally requested years ago, forty-two trees now. He needs to do a better job with the sketch so that it is possible to ascertain which trees are to be removed. A retaining wall will be put in. Because of the good weather, he would like to remove six trees, but no more, without a permit. Mr. Martone will need to walk the property before the March meeting.

SITE PLAN REVIEW-None

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS-None

LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW-None

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. Currently the Shade Tree Commission is using its temporary budget.

There was an uproot on Shadyside Road which took down wires resulting in the loss of power in the area. The roots of the tree were rotting.

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.

237 Elizabeth Avenue-The tree will be removed.

150 Snyder Avenue-One tree will be removed, and one tree will be elevated on the house side.

25 Northern Trail-The tree will be removed, and the stump will be left.

129 Canterbury Drive-Two ash trees will be removed.

6 Canterbury Drive (street island)-The triple ash will be removed.

5 Morton Drive-One ash tree will be removed.

457 Shadyside Drive-The oak tree will be removed.

4 Drumm Court (across the street)-The ash tree will be removed, and the stump will be left.

10 Buckingham Drive-The branch will be trimmed away from the wire.

95 Elm Avenue-The oak tree will be removed.

481 Darlington Avenue (Alida side)-The dead limb will be removed.

55 Oakridge Road-The dead wood will be removed.

Island Road (Old Stone House)-The branch overhanging the roof will be removed.

127 Chestnut Street (left side in Green Acres)-The tree will be dropped, and the stump will be left.

6 Deer Trail-One cherry tree will be pruned, one maple tree will be removed, and two oak trees will be removed.

21 Sauna Road-The multi-trunk tree will be removed.

81 Sauna Road-The ash tree will be removed.

127 Chestnut Street and bikepath-Two trees will be removed, and the stumps will be left.

228 Brookside Road-The tree will be removed, and the stump will be left.

64 Sunwatch Court-The tree will be removed.

40 Kelleher Avenue-The tree will be removed.

164 Deer Trail-The tree will be removed.

107 Broad Street-The tree 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

DPW Tree Work-2023

41 Collins Avenue-The tree will be removed.

86 Elbert Street-The tree will be removed.

27 Colonial Heights Drive-The hanging branch will be removed.

69 Elbert Court (behind)-The trees blocking the stream will be removed.

4 Mitchell Way (across the street)-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, as far as a settlement, nothing has been finalized. A counter-offer is expected. The deadline is the March meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding the spring planting, the list has several missing species which must be communicated to Mr. Trouf before the project can be put out to bid which needs to be done as soon as possible.

Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Englishman, the reading of the proposed ordinance change to be done by Mr. McMahon was unanimously approved.

	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				

After discussion, the following was read by Mr. McMahon:
The use of stone for ground cover in commercial landscaping applications will be reviewed on a project by project basis by the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission before a decision is made. The use of stone for ground cover in nonvehicular open space areas would be for dealing with erosion control, grade/slope severity, and swales. Curbing should be used in order to prevent any material displacement along with landscape fabric to discourage unwanted weed growth. The planting of low spreading ground cover such as juniper to eventually grow to cover the stone is required.

The loose stone shall be solid mineral material with round edges, two to five inches in diameter, similar in appearance, color, and type with no quarry stone permitted.

Acceptable stone would be, but not limited to the following:

1. 2-5 inch Delaware
2. 2-5 inch Walkill
3. 2-5 inch Pennsylvania

Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, the proposed ordinance change was unanimously approved. Mr. Geist will bring the proposed ordinance change to Borough Attorney Scandariato. It will eventually go to the governing body.

	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				

NEW BUSINESS

A request from Chuck Finch for the planting of a tree in honor of former Board of Health President Jim Rogers had been brought to the Recreation Commission and then shared with the Shade Tree Commission. A Downy Shadblow which is not too large in height and diameter will be planted in Finch Park as the 2023 Arbor Day tree on a date and time to be determined. The location had been ascertained. Mr. McMahon had walked the site with Tom Lanning of the DPW. A mulch circle will be put around the tree. A plaque will be placed near the tree.

Mr. McMahon shared information about an extension of a previously approved tree removal permit. The residents at 236 Shadyside Road are building a new rock wall and need permission to remove an ash tree (14-inch) that is dead and a silver maple (14-inch) at their expense. Upon motion by Mr. Englishman, seconded by Mr. Martone, the extension of their initial tree removal permit was unanimously approved.

	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				

Some of the trees on Main Street could use a trimming. Borough Administrator Vozeh will be asked if that trimming could be part of the Main Street beautification project.

Mr. Trouf asked about the Green Thumb winner for 2022.

Mr. Melso noted that the borough used to distribute seedlings on Ramsey Day. That might be something to look into. It could be part of a campaign to replant Ramsey. Mr. Beltramini commented upon the significant loss of larger trees in Ramsey and what to do about it.

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 8:29 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, and carried unanimously.