

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, February 20, 2020. Also present were Mr. Beltramini, Mr. Englishman, Ms. Geist, Mr. Martone, Mr. McMahon, Mr. Rutkowski (arrived at 8:03 p.m.), Mr. Schumacher, Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, Mr. Kilman, 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 and the RIDGEWOOD NEWS on Friday, January 3, 2020.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Melso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Mr. Beltramini, seconded by Mr. Martone, the minutes of the January 16, 2020 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. McMahon commented upon the recent DPW tree work in Mr. Englishman's area. He would not have DPW elevate trees until they have the capability to do those elevations. They are taking trees out of symmetrical balance and putting them into asymmetrical balance and causing other issues detrimental to the trees. Additionally, the trees will need to be put back into symmetrical balance which is an additional cost. Two DPW employees will be attending a trimming and elevation course at Rutgers; they probably work for Tom Lanning. Mr. Englishman noted that trees at 221 Woodland Avenue were on Chris Fix's work order, but they were done by the DPW. Work by DPW appears to be allowable by ordinance. The issue will be re-visited.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Minutes-

Board of Adjustment-December 18, 2019

Environmental Commission-January 14, 2020

Planning Board-December 17, 2019, January 7, 2020, January 21, 2020

Resolution memorialized by the Planning Board at the January 21, 2020 meeting

It was noted that no landscape plan has been submitted to the Shade Tree Commission for Ramsey Energy.

**TREE REMOVAL PERMIT HEARING-None****SITE PLAN REVIEW****Konica Minolta, 101 Williams Drive, Block 3902, Lot 2**

The project is almost finished. Mr. McMahon noted that the material being put in is very good. Marshall Fox extended an invitation to any Shade Tree Commissioners who would like to visit the property.

**TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS****Corner of Biscayne Drive and East Crescent Avenue**

One tree still needs to be planted on Biscayne Drive. The building department will be contacted once the planting is done.

**75 Brookfield Lane**

Mr. McMahon noted that approximately twenty-two trees were removed, most of which were in poor shape. Mr. Hasbrouck had assessed the situation. More than seventy trees are going back in. The work is being done by Almighty Tree Service. It was decided that no violation had been committed.

**LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW****Ramsey Invest LLC, 70 Hilltop Road, Block 3702, Lot 4**

Mr. Beltramini will visit the site in the spring. The dead junipers should be removed. Mr. Melso had previously noted that the trees on the perimeter of the parking lot need to be looked at.

**PLANNING BOARD APPLICATION STATUS-None**

The status of the Lexus and Toyota projects will be ascertained.

**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. The Commissioners were reminded to keep up with their residential inspections since everything is currently up to date.

Work order #1, as follows, has been completed.

**320 Elbert Street**-The tree will be elevated.

**162 Momar Drive**-The tree will be lightly elevated and the split limb will be removed.

**40 Rose Avenue**-A dead tree will be dropped in Green Acres. Three trees will be elevated.

**65 East Crescent Avenue**-Two trees will be elevated, and the dead wood will be removed.

**310 North Central Avenue (Monroe Street side)**-The tree will be removed.

**134 Elbert Street**-The tree will be removed.

**450 Elbert Street**-The tree will be removed.

**7 Goose Cove Lane**-Two trees will be removed.

**26 North Central Avenue (municipal lot)**-The stump will be ground.

**92 Chestnut Street**-The tree will be removed, with some left for firewood.

**60 Cleveland Street**-The tree will be pruned and elevated.

**399 Darlington Avenue**-The stump will be ground.

**377 South Central Avenue (behind house on May Court)**-Three trees will be removed.

**12 May Court**-Five trees will be elevated, and the dead wood will be removed.

**154 North Spruce Street (across the street from Green Acres)**-Two trees will be removed.

**223 Darlington Avenue (on Oak Ridge Road side)**-The tree will be removed.

**310 Elbert Street**-The tree will be removed.

**Elbert Street (wooded area south side of Darlington Avenue)**-Four trees will be removed and the stumps will remain.

**30 Wyckoff Avenue (library)**-The leaning tree behind the dumpster will be removed and the stump will be left.

**208 Heather Lane (behind house in Green Acres)**-Three leaning trees will be dropped.

Work Order #2

**16 Baker Court**-One tree will be pruned and elevated.

**17 Baker Court**-One tree will be pruned and elevated.

**156 Shadyside Road (wooded area by stockade fence)**-One tree will be removed and the stump will be left.

**384 Shadyside Road**-Two oaks will be pruned and elevated.

**44 Fawn Hill Court**-One tree will be removed.

**221 Woodland Avenue**-Three pear trees will be pruned and elevated.

**Elbert Street and Blauvelt Avenue (wooded area)**-Three trees will be removed, and the stumps will be left.

**154 North Spruce Street**-The tree will be removed.

**399 Darlington Avenue**-The stump will be ground.

**33 North Central Avenue**-The maple tree will be elevated and the holly trees will be trimmed.

**193 Canterbury Drive**-The tree will be removed with Rockland Electric.

DPW trees

**3 Talina Court**-Two trees will be removed.

**41 Tulip Street**-One tree will be removed.

**49 Tulip Street**-One tree will be removed.

**115 Refy Avenue**-One tree will be removed.

**11 Indian Valley Road**-One tree will be removed.

**5 Pine Tree Road**-One tree will be elevated.

**6 Pine Tree Road**-Two trees will be elevated.

**7 Pine Tree Road**-Two trees will be elevated.

**9 Pine Tree Road**-One tree will be elevated.

**4 Mitchell Way**-Two trees will be elevated.

**Cleveland Street**-One tree will be removed.

### **COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS**

Regarding Retro Fitness, 806 Route 17N, Block 4702, Lot 4, approval of the plan which was presented in October was tabled until further information can be gathered. Mr. Gubala is looking into the plan.

Mr. Trouf visited Foxtrail Senior Living, 70 Lake Street, Block 5001, Lot 19, where the rocks which were put around the circular drive need to come out. Additionally, an updated landscape plan needs to be developed.

Mr. Trouf contacted the property manager, Art Schnarr, at Chili's/Brothers Barbeque, 900 Route 17N, Block 4702, Lot 1. A revised landscape plan will be brought to the March meeting since outdoor seating is being added.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The fall planting was completed by Downes Tree Service; fifty-six trees are in the ground. Mr. Trouf and Borough Administrator Vozeh went to Jersey City to discuss the planting of the trees and the state grant. Mr. Trouf was asked to mark where every tree is on a tax map. Forty-five trees will be planted in May

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Trouf will check on the attendance of the DPW employees who attended a Rutgers class about trimming and elevating for CEUs.

The Tree City USA application and the NJUCF annual accomplishment report were both submitted. Mr. Lanning will be asked to put up the Tree City USA signs.

Regarding Ramsey Energy, Mr. Beltramini noted that no plans have come before the Shade Tree Commission. There is a notation that approval is subject to Shade Tree

Commission sign-off. Councilman Kilman was asked about the triple sign-off which was mentioned in January. The idea has not yet been brought before the governing body. Mr. Geist will follow up with Planning Board Attorney Whitaker. Mr. Trouf shared the procedure which will make him “the teeth” which the Shade Tree Commission is looking for.

Mr. Martone asked about the status of the project off of Island Avenue.

Tire Discount on Route 17S will become Pep Boys. The work currently being done centers around arsenic testing. There is a landscape plan available for the project.

**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 8:38 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, and carried unanimously.

