

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

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 16, 2023. Also present were Mr. Beltramini, Mr. Englishman, Ms. Geist, Mr. Gubala, 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. Geist, Board Attorney, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Melso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, the minutes of the February 16, 2023 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. McMahon shared the plan for the planting of a tree at Finch Park in honor of former Board of Health President Jim Rogers. The tree will be planted in conjunction with Arbor Day on a date (April 28, April 29, or April 30) and time to be determined. Columbia Bank on Main Street will be paying for the tree, a River Birch, which the deer seem to leave alone. Representatives from the bank would like to be at the ceremony. The location has been ascertained. The plaque has been donated and will be placed in cement near the tree. Downes Tree Service will plant the tree. Mr. McMahon noted that some of the trees at Finch Park need work. He and Chris Fix will walk the grounds soon. The walkway will be looked at then too. Borough Administrator Vozech will be kept in the loop.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

The deadline for the next issue of the *Ramsey Journal* is Friday, March 17th. Mr. Martone and Councilwoman Cusick collaborated on the Shade Tree Commission's submission which includes several topics pertinent to the Commission.

Regarding the tree planting in memory of Jim Rogers, the Board of Health will also be asked to attend.

Regarding the 2023 budget, Shade Tree's budget has been increased from \$175,750 in 2022 to \$185,000 in 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board of Adjustment-January 18, 2023
 Planning Board minutes-February 7, 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. Mr. Martone met with him and walked the property. The trees are now marked. A retaining wall will be put in as well as a pool and two retention basins. Upon motion by Mr. Englishman, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, the plan which would allow twenty-two trees to be removed 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				
Mr. Rutkowski, Alt. 2				

227 South Central Avenue, Block 2901, Lot 20

Mr. Englishman walked the property; there are nine trees to be removed, four ash, one red pine, one twin trunk maple, and three trees which are standing dead. The one good tree has a heavy lean toward the house. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, 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				
Mr. Rutkowski, Alt. 2				

SITE PLAN REVIEW

Ramsey Mitsubishi, 1355 Route 17, Block 3804, Lot 1

They are parking on what should be a landscaped area. They have a new plan for thirty-six parking spaces which has not yet gone before the Planning Board.

Ramsey Housing Inc., 13 North Central Avenue, Block 2308, Lot 1

The plan for independent or almost independent housing for four to six people has not yet gone before the Board of Adjustment.

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. Work order #1 is done and Chris Fix is working on work order #2.

Work order #3

11 Candlelight Road-The tree will be removed.

215 North Spruce Street-Two stumps will be ground.

52 Roandis Court-The stump will be ground.

9 Indian Valley Road-The stump will be ground.

127 Orchard Place-Three trees will be dropped, and one tree will be trimmed.

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.

215 North Spruce Street-Two trees will be removed.

9 Indian Valley Road-The tree will be removed.

182 Norman Drive-The hazardous split will be removed.

1 Clearwater Road-Three trees will be trimmed for dead branches.

COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

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

The plantings are all done at the Wash Club. There has been no resolution on the use of stone there. Mr. McMahon will follow up.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding **69, 87, and 99 Spring Street**, since Mr. Geist was not in attendance, the issue was tabled.

Regarding the spring planting, thirty-two trees were on the list. Mr. Trouf enumerated the landscapers who received the pertinent paperwork. Quotes must be submitted by Friday, April 28th.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Martone asked about the southern ramp to Route 17, whether or not there is a walkway. He noted that it would be a perfect time to plant new trees. However, the project might not yet be completed by the state. That information needs to be determined.

Mr. McMahon will reach out to Gary Bach, Pool Manager, regarding the trees on the pool site. Uniscape is the contracted landscaper at the pool. Irrigation/lack of irrigation has been part of the problem.

Councilwoman Cusick brought up the line-of-sight issue. Residents should be considerate and cut back offending growth. There is an ordinance which addresses the issue. The library and Interstate were also mentioned as part of the discussion.

The entire length of Main Street should be included in the next work order.

Mr. Melso asked Councilwoman Cusick about the proposed treecutter/homeowner ordinance. To date, nothing has been brought up at a meeting of the governing body.

Mr. Melso asked about landscaping plans for the Ramsey Animal Hospital which is now occupying the Weichert building. There is no prior plan available. They will be given some time to beautify their property.

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 8:23 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, and carried unanimously.

