

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the March meeting for the public was held via teleconference. Masks were worn and social distancing was practiced by those Shade Tree Commissioners in borough hall. The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 18, 2021. Also present were Mr. Englishman (via telephone), Ms. Geist (via telephone), Mr. Gubala (via telephone), Mr. McMahon, Mr. Schumacher (via telephone), Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney (via telephone), Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary (via telephone). Mr. Beltramini, Mr. Martone, Mr. Rutkowski 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 and the RIDGEWOOD NEWS on Friday, December 25, 2020.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Melso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Englishman, seconded by Mr. McMahon, the minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting were unanimously accepted as received. The February meeting had been cancelled due to inclement weather.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

By the April meeting, Mr. Melso would like a decision made about where to plant a tree for Arbor Day 2021. The species also needs to be determined. Various locations and species were suggested.

Mr. McMahon reported that five trees which were approximately eighty percent in decline were removed from the easement on Franklin Street and Ramsey Avenue by Ramapo Tree. A summons was issued.

Mr. McMahon and Mr. Melso asked that the Commissioners look at the new ordinance which raised the price for trees to \$550. They should highlight any proposed changes which would be submitted to the governing body. The ordinance is available on the borough website.

Mr. McMahon shared information about removal of branches which were removed by Orange & Rockland on Rose Avenue. The neighbors on Rose Avenue sent a thank you for the work which was done, a first.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board of Adjustment minutes-December 16, 2020, January 20, 2021, February 17, 2021
Environmental Commission minutes-January 12, 2021
Planning Board minutes-January 5, 2021, January 19, 2021, February 2, 2021, February 16, 2021

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS-None

No permit had been needed for the removal of five trees at 24 Farmington Court. They will be replaced. The residents have not yet gone before the Planning Board, but they have submitted a very comprehensive plan. They will need a variance.

SITE PLAN REVIEW-None**TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS-None****LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW****Ramsey Invest LLC, 70 Hilltop Road, Block 3702, Lot 4**

Mr. Beltramini needs to re-visit the site with the landscaping plan. The dead trees on the perimeter of the parking lot should be looked at. There are a number of issues which must be addressed. Additionally, there is some newly-observed dead plant material.

Lorico Real Estate (Property owner for Brothers Barbecue), 900 Route 17N, Block 4702, Lot 1.01

Mr. McMahon received a call from Len DiTomaso who had been contacted by Naomi Sarna, the owner of the property. Mr. DiTomaso has developed a landscaping plan for the site which had been looked at by members of the Shade Commission. Some changes were made. The irrigation and plant material were added to the plan. Four shade trees which were missing have been added. The berm was moved off the curb line and grass will be planted. Mr. Gubala asked about the replacement of trees on the islands which will be done. If there are no trees on what appear to be islands on the plan, they are not islands but parking lot stripes. A letter will be sent to Ms. Sarna, apprising her of the approval and stating that the Shade Tree Commission is looking forward to work starting on the project. Upon motion by Mr. Englishman, seconded by Mr. McMahon, the submitted landscaping plan was approved as presented.

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

Peach Hill Condos, Block 4001, Lot 16.01

Mr. McMahon has taken the lead on this project. There has been a lot of back and forth with the property management company. They wanted to hire the Slevin Group in Boonton, a building management company, which is not a state-licensed landscaping company. They sub-contract the majority of their work so Peach Hill will need to find another company since a certified landscape owner/operator is needed due to the scope of the project. Mr. McMahon has recently sent two e-mails, referencing the borough ordinance, but he has not heard back. Mr. Geist will send a letter. Mr. Englishman suggested including a deadline and consequences for lack of compliance. The planting season is approaching, and a timetable should be established and adhered to.

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 about what to do with the stumps. Chris Fix is under contract until April, 2022.

Work Order #1 (2021)

115 Refy Avenue (at Elizabeth Avenue)-The stump will be ground.

270 Shadyside Road-The double trunk tree will be removed.

8 Carriage Lane (across the street)-The tree will be removed.

426 Elizabeth Avenue-The tree will be removed.

96 DeBaun Avenue-Two trees will be removed.

307 Lakeside Drive-The tree will be removed.

3 Clearwater Road-The tree will be elevated.

15 Candlelight Road-Branches will be trimmed from the lamp post.

Between 15 and 19 Candlelight Road-A branch will be removed in Green Acres.

56 Maple Street (Cleveland Street side)-The tree will be removed, and the stump will be ground.

7 Alida Place-The stump will be ground.

20 Column Court (Behind in Green Acres)-The tree will be dropped and the stump will be left.

86 Orchard Place-The tree will be removed.

Carol Street/Chestnut Street (Bike Path)-Two trees will be removed and the stump will be left.

27 Eton Court-The branches of one tree will be trimmed from the wires.

11 Forest Avenue-The tree will be removed.

5 Brittany Court (behind in Green Acres)-The tree will be trimmed.

57 Lakeview Terrace-Dead branches will be removed and one tree will be elevated.

30 Walnut Street-Two trees will be elevated.

393 Grove Street (Myrtle Avenue side)-Five trees will be removed and the stumps will be left.

53 Oakridge Road-The tree will be removed.

85 Church Street (Cedar Street side)-The tree will be removed.

75 Ronald Court-The tree will be removed.

19 Carol Street-The tree will be removed.

Ackerman Avenue (woods across from the church)-Two trees will be removed.

Work Order #2

15 Garland Avenue-The tree will be removed.

3 Roandis Court-The tree will be removed.

99 Nottingham Road-The tree will be removed.

20 Column Court (behind in Green Acres)-The tree will be dropped and the stump will be left.

Beech Street (corner of Oakridge Road)-The branches will be trimmed.

307 Lakeside Drive-The tree will be removed.

Additionally, Mr. Trouf visited 92 Maple Street; he requested the survey of the property. A tree was taken down by Orange & Electric on Woodland Avenue; it was in the wires.

COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

Mr. Trouf sent the owner of the Ramsey Inn a letter regarding the landscaping. However, the owner does not currently have the money for landscaping. Mr. Melso will call him.

OLD BUSINESS-None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Englishman asked about the upcoming tree planting. Mr. McMahon read the list of twenty-one trees. The Commissioners should contact Mr. McMahon with any additional trees. The trees can go out to bid as soon as possible. They should be planted by the end of May. No borough approvals are necessary. There is \$175,000 left in the revised budget.

Mr. Melso initiated a discussion about the sections of the borough which had been proactively elevated. Borough Engineer D'Agostaro indicated that the practice of preventive maintenance needed to be discontinued because it was not in the spirit of the contract. The Commissioners would like the practice revisited; Mr. Geist will speak with Borough Attorney Scandariato. The borough does have two certified trimmers. The practice is done in other communities such as Paramus.

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 8:16 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Gubala, seconded by Mr. Englishman, and carried unanimously.