

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the April 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, April 15, 2021. Also present were Mr. Beltramini (via telephone), Mr. Englishman (via telephone), Ms. Geist (via telephone), Mr. Gubala (via telephone), Mr. Martone (via telephone), Mr. McMahon, Mr. Schumacher (via telephone), Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney (via telephone), Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. 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. McMahon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Englishman, the minutes of the March 18, 2021 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Schumacher noted that there are two dead trees on Main Street. There are some stakes and gator bags from last year which need to be removed.

Mr. Martone commented upon the Green Giant arborvitae at Ramsey Inn on Route 17.

Mr. Englishman asked about the deadline for the spring planting of trees at the Lexus site. They are in violation of their landscape plan. Mr. Melso recommended contacting Wayne Schey.

Mrs. Dey reminded the Commissioners that the deadline for the filing of the financial disclosure statements is Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. McMahon shared some information about the Shade Tree Ordinance 753. It appears that between 1997 and 2013 some deletions were made to it. Borough Clerk Bendian located some revisions which had been made. The Zoning Board ordinance has the correct percentages for greenspace which should be the same as Shade Tree's

percentages. Mr. McMahon is working with Councilman Kilman. Borough Attorney Scandariato is also looking into it and Mr. Geist has spoken with him.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Planning Board minutes-March 16, 2021

## TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS

### 117 Deer Trail North

Mr. Englishman and Mr. McMahon visited the site. Mahwah Tree has the trees marked. Fourteen trees need to come down due to decline, broken crowns, and other issues. Upon motion by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Englishman, the removal of fourteen trees was unanimously approved.

	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				

## SITE PLAN REVIEW-None

## TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS

### 16 Colleen Court, Block 2601, Lot 59

Of the eight or nine trees which were removed, two were thoroughly rotted. Mr. Englishman counted eight stumps; Mr. Martone counted nine. No permit had been issued. The trees were cut down in the wetlands which is a DEP violation. A summons has been issued and there is a court date. Mr. Trouf will appear in court. Mr. Melso reached out to the Environmental Commission regarding the issue; a committee has been established. Mr. Martone asked if Mr. Hasbrouck, the borough's arborist, had made an evaluation. The homeowner wanted to take down more trees; both Mr. Englishman and Mr. Martone informed him of the proper channels.

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

Mr. Beltramini will re-visit the site once the perennials come out. 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.

**CH/MG Ramsey LLC, 900 Route 17N, Block 4702, Lot 1.01**

As requested by Naomi Sarna, the owner of the property, Len DiTomaso developed a landscaping plan for the site which had been looked at by members of the Shade Commission and was approved at the March meeting. It was noted that Mr. DiTomaso was not hired as the landscaper. 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 by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**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. Mr. McMahon has sent several e-mails, referencing the borough ordinance, but he has not heard back. The landscape plan must be updated since twenty-one shademaster locusts and seventeen little leaf lindens were removed, and the groundcover needs to be updated and upgraded. Mr. Geist also sent a letter to the property management company and has spoken with Angel from that property management company. A representative was supposed to join the April 15<sup>th</sup> telephone call. The president of the Peach Hill Condos board is Ms. Cohen who indicated to Mr. Beltramini she knew nothing about the issue. However, she told him that they are interviewing four landscape architects and will chose one. After much discussion about how best to proceed, it was decided to send a letter of violation to Ms. Cohen. If there is no response, a summons for non-compliance will be issued. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, and unanimously approved, a letter of violation will be sent to Ms. Cohen, president of the Peach Hills Condos, including a date of Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, for drop off of the landscape plans at borough hall, followed by presentation of the project at the Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> Shade Tree Commission meeting by the project's landscape architect, with installation by the end of September.

	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				

### **TCTL1 LLC, 61 Grant Street, Block 3607, Lot 6**

The landscape drawing that was submitted by Tom Lind of M&M Supplies was not reviewed since it was not complete. A landscape plan developed by a professional was requested for the May meeting.

### **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 #3 has been completed.

Work Order #3

**221 Elbert Street**-The tree will be pruned and elevated.

**36 Brookfield Lane**-Three trees will be removed.

**8 Vaughn Drive**-Four trees will be elevated; the dead wood will be removed.

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

**Main Street (bikepath toward Arch Street)**-The tree will be removed; the stump will be left.

**4 Thornhill Drive**-The tree will be removed.

**10 Rosewood Court**-Two trees will be trimmed and elevated.

**20 Lantern Lane**-Two trees will be trimmed and elevated.

Work Order #4

**116 Norman Drive**-The tree will be trimmed.

**10 Rosewood Court**-There are two trees with small hangers.

**518 Darlington Avenue (on Shadyside Road)**-The double trunk tree will be removed; the dead wood from the oak tree on the right side of the driveway will be trimmed.

**61 Crest Road**-The tree in the front will be removed. Three trees in the easement will be dropped. A section of a downed tree in the drainage easement will be cut out to allow water flow. The tree will be cut off the neighbor's fence.

**92 Maple Street**-The tree will be removed; the stump will be left.

**30 Snyder Avenue**-The tree will be removed.

**Pine Street and Momar Drive**-The tree will be removed from the brook.

**128 Snyder Avenue**-The hanging branch will be removed.

**11 May Court**-Four trees will be removed. The stumps should be flush cut.

**140 Snyder Avenue**-Two trees will be elevated.

**Veterans Park (Arch Street side)**-The Norway maple will be elevated and cabled; the dead low hanging branch will be removed from the red oak.

**Veterans Park (along walking path)**-The hickory tree will be elevated; the hanging branch will be removed from the black walnut.

**Veterans Park (around flag poles in center of park)**-The ten beech trees will be trimmed back and shaped.

**92 Buckingham Drive**-The stump will be ground.

**4 Amanda Court (behind in Finch Park)**-Two trees will be removed and the stumps will be left.

**COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS**

Mr. Gubala had reviewed the plans for Sal's Pizza, 71 West Main Street, and the owner is not in compliance with the original landscape plan. Mr. Gubala will discuss the landscaping with the owner.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Beltramini asked about the gas station on Route 17S. They are open but no site work is being done. They did put in new lighting.

Pep Boys has not finished the required work by their deadline which Mr. Trouf will check on. They are still operating under a temporary CO.

Mr. Englishman asked about the landscaping plan for Uncle Giuseppe's. The owner needs to clean up the property; there is a property manager. The health officer may need to get involved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The quotation request for spring plantings was sent to Aquascape Tree Services, Ascape, Barbado, and Downes. The quotes are due back by Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. McMahon and Mr. Melso provided information about the Emerald Ash Borer invasion on the Mahwah border. Mr. McMahon indicated where there are problems in Ramsey; trees will generally not be removed in Green Acres. Information will be put on the website, advising borough residents about the problem. Mr. Hasbrouck will provide the verbiage. The permit fee for tree removal could be waived for those whose trees have been infested by the borer at the discretion of the Commission. At some point, the borough may be asked how many ash trees were taken down because of the borer.

The Community Forestry Program needs to be renewed. Mr. Hasbrouck generally completes the necessary paperwork.

**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 8:30 p.m. upon motion by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, and carried unanimously.