

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 20, 2023. Also present were Mr. Beltramini, Mr. Englishman, Ms. Geist, Mr. Gubala, Mr. Martone, Mr. McMahon, Mr. Schumacher, Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, Ms. Cusick, Council Liaison, Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Mr. Rutkowski 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. Martone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Schumacher, the minutes of the March 16, 2023 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Martone commented favorably about the latest issue of the *Ramsey Journal*. He and Councilwoman Cusick collaborated on the Shade Tree Commission article. Mr. Trouf noted that someone read the Shade Tree section and called to request a tree.

Mr. Melso reported that an e-mail was sent to the mayor to complain about the poor maintenance of the Spruce Street section of the bikepath. It was suggested that the bikepath be walked. Notes will be taken about what needs to be done. The complaint will be forwarded to Mr. Lanning of DPW, Mr. Trouf, as well as Councilwoman Cusick. Clean-Up Day in the borough is Saturday, April 22nd.

Mr. McMahon and Mr. Melso walked the Wawa facility as part of the final inspection prior to the issuance of the certificate of occupancy. They had some comments/recommendations, specifically about the ground cover (junipers), the arborvitae, and the erosion on the hills which engineering must address. Any dead trees must be replaced. The resulting letter will be forwarded to Mr. Trouf.

Tom Lanning told Mr. Martone that there is a tree on Mechanic Street across from the Knights of Columbus which needs to come down.

The business at 48 South Franklin Turnpike only has stone and is in violation of its landscaping plan. However, no letter will be sent until the ordinance regarding stone is

changed. That ordinance as well as the ordinance regarding the treecutter/homeowner ordinance need governing body approval.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

The municipal budget hearing will be held at the Wednesday, April 26th meeting of the governing body. Shade Tree’s budget has been increased from \$175,750 in 2022 to \$185,000 in 2023.

In addition to the Shade Tree Commission’s article in the *Ramsey Journal*, there were articles about leaf removal, line-of-sight, and mosquito spraying which are pertinent to Shade Tree.

Regarding the tree planting in memory of Jim Rogers on Saturday, April 29th, the Board of Health was asked to attend.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board of Adjustment-February 15, 2023

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS

4 Hosking Way, Block 1701, Lot 6

Homeowner Tom Fugnitti was present to discuss the removal of trees. Mr. Martone and Mr. McMahon met with him and walked the property. The trees to be removed were delineated and include nine dead trees, four ash trees, several maples, and numerous Norway spruces. There probably are thirty trees remaining on the property. Insect-resistant replacement trees will be planted. Upon motion by Mr. Beltramini, seconded by Mr. Martone, the plan which would allow twenty-seven 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. McMahon	X			
Mr. Schumacher	X			
Mr. Melso, Chairman	X			
Mr. Englishman, Alt. 1				
Mr. Rutkowski, Alt. 2				

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. Chris Fix is working on work order #3.

Work order #3

311 East Crescent Avenue (Cranberry Court side)-The tree will be trimmed.

48, 56, 120 West Cedar Place-All dead wood will be removed.

46 Garland Avenue-The dead branch will be removed.

2 Indian Valley Road-Two trees will be removed.

12 Lincoln Street-The tree will be removed.

11 Candlelight Road-The tree will be removed. The shavings were left behind.

20 Candlelight Road-The tree will be removed.

290 Airmount Avenue (Partridge Court side)-The tree will be removed.

71 Elbert Street (behind in Green Acres)-Two trees will be dropped.

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 East Oak Street-The stump will be ground.

86 Elbert Street-The stump will be ground.

41 Collins Avenue-The stump will be ground.

161 Twinbrook Court (Orchard Place side)-The stumps will be ground.

150 Snyder Avenue-Orange & Rockland will remove the tree.

457 Shadyside Road-Orange & Rockland will remove the tree.

DPW Tree Work #2

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

127 East Oak Street-The tree will be removed.

2 Indian Valley Road-The tree will be removed.

33 West Main Street (North Central Avenue side)-The lower branches will be removed.

COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

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

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding **900A Route 17N (Brothers Barbeque)**, that issue should be coming to an end. The property has been sold, and the closing is Friday, April 21st. The full amount for the landscaping and irrigation, \$37,423.67, will be put in escrow. The new owners will come to a meeting to discuss the landscaping that needs to be done. Len DiTomaso is still involved with the project.

Regarding **69, 87, and 99 Spring Street**, the amount of \$7,500 should have been paid for the violation. If not, Mr. Geist will follow up.

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. Mr. Gubala asked about two Island Road sites which were discussed along with a discussion about planting in the right-of-way as well as determining the right-of-way.

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 on Saturday, April 29th, in conjunction with Arbor Day 2023. 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 on Thursday, April 27th. The proclamation has also been completed.

Mr. McMahon reached 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. The landscaping will be cleaned up, including removal of eleven dead plantings. Scotch pines and American hollies have survived the dry conditions. Leland cypresses were also suggested as possible trees to plant.

Mr. Melso shared information about the ramp to Route 17. There is a new walkway leaving no space for trees.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Martone noted that the redwood tree by the pool has doubled in size since it was planted. He and Mr. McMahon put fencing around it.

There are asphalt sidewalks in the borough along certain portions of Darlington Avenue which will be replaced by concrete sidewalks.

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 8:21 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Melso, seconded by Mr. Martone, and carried unanimously.

