

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 18, 2023. Also present were Mr. Beltramini, 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. Englishman and Mr. Rutkowski 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 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. Schumacher, the minutes of the April 20, 2023 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Martone reported that there is a dead tree at Joshua Drive/Allison Way. Mr. McMahon reported that there is a dead tree at Manor Drive/Grove Street.

The steel plates on Main Street by Pietro's and Bagel Boys are now flush with the sidewalks.

There is a tree on Madison Avenue that leans over the sidewalk. It is cabled but the cable is cutting into the tree. The Commissioners will continue to monitor the tree.

The Shade Tree memberships will be renewed through the borough.

There was an automobile accident on Main Street which took down a borough tree, a Zelkova. Mr. Geist will contact Borough Attorney Scandariato about an insurance claim.

A three-store mall on Route 17 is being redone. Mr. Trouf will take a look at their landscaping plan before a letter is sent regarding maintenance of the properties and landscaping.

Nine dead arborvitae and one dead maple were removed from the Pep Boys property. No replacements have been planted. A letter will be sent.

Regarding the \$15,000 grant for the tree inventory of the entire borough, the Shade Tree Commission will work with a to-be-determined company.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

On Wednesday, May 10th, Resolution 119 was passed, awarding the tree planting to Above Par Landscape for \$20,470.50.

The tree planting ceremony in memory of Jim Rogers on Saturday, April 29th, was rained out. However, there was an Arbor Day observation attended by four representatives from Columbia Bank, Borough Administrator Vozeh, Councilwoman Cusick, Mr. Martone, Mr. Melso, and Ms. Monaghan from the Board of Health.

Councilwoman Cusick noted that she planted a linden tree in her yard in observance of Arbor Day.

She thanked Mr. Martone for his handling of the situation at 448 Shadyside Road.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board of Adjustment-March 15, 2023

Planning Board-March 7, 2023

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS

6 Deer Trail, Block 3001, Lot 13

The request was for the removal of nine dead ash trees. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, the removal of nine dead ash trees was unanimously approved. Since the trees to be removed are ash trees, the permit fee was waived.

	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**54 North Franklin Turnpike, Block 4703, Lot 1.1**

John Pjeternikaj, 190 Main Street, Suite 201, Hackensack, property manager and owner of the property on North Franklin Turnpike, was present. Mr. Trouf had counted eight stumps on the property, but no tree removal permit had been requested. Pine Hill Tree Service had indicated that they would take care of getting the necessary permit, which they did not do. The plan was to remove the trees in 2023 and complete a landscape project next year. Since it would be best to avoid a summons, it was determined that Mr. Gubala will visit the property to count the stumps and measure their diameters. He will send that information back to Mr. Trouf. A revised landscaping plan is needed in preparation for a fall planting, if possible. In addition to the North Franklin Turnpike property, there is also property on Airmount Road which needs attention to its landscaping. The issue was tabled until the June meeting. Relatedly, Mr. Geist was asked about the status of the proposed ordinance which would make the tree cutter as well as the resident responsible for any tree removal violations. He will check with Mr. Scandariato.

LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW-None**RESIDENTIAL SITE INSPECTIONS**

All curbs 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. It was noted that they are doing an excellent job for the borough. Chris Fix is working on work order #4.

Work order #4

19 Arlton Road-Two trees will be removed.

153 Elbert Street-The limb growing through the cable wire will be removed.

35 Joshua Drive-The tree will be removed.

294 Grove Street-The tree will be removed.

25 Highwood Road-The tree will be elevated and dead branches will be removed.

448 Shadyside Road-The tree marked with a red X will be dropped in Green Acres.

195 Franklin Turnpike (Island Park Avenue side)-The dead ash tree will be removed.

127 East Oak Street-The tree will be removed.

8 Diana Court-The dead branches will be trimmed.

34 Linden Street (left side, down paper street)-The tree will be dropped.

45 Alder Drive (Garden Street side)-The tree will be removed.

East Main Street (Veterans Park)-Nine trees will be trimmed and elevated.

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

457 Shadyside Road-The stump will be ground.

406 Elbert Street-The tree will be removed.

DPW Tree Work #2

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

2 Indian Valley Road-The tree will be removed.

83 Manor Drive-The trees on each side of the driveway will be elevated.

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

40 Cherry Lane-The dead tree will be pulled out.

4 Indian Valley Road-The tree 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.

Regarding **The Store on Main Street, Block 4903, Lot 7**, a letter was sent. The owner contacted Mr. Trouf, explained that he had knee replacement surgery, and was given an extension until Thursday, June 1st. If the June 1st deadline is not met, he will need to ask for another extension in writing.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding **900A Route 17N (Brothers Barbeque)**, the closing has been delayed. Nonetheless, the agreement with the Shade Tree Commission will continue to be upheld and the closing cannot take place without it. The full amount for the landscaping and irrigation, \$37,423.67, will be put in escrow.

Regarding **69, 87, and 99 Spring Street**, the check for \$7,500 has not yet been received. Mr. Geist will follow up.

Regarding the spring planting, Colin Milde will check out the trees at the nursery. They should be planted by Thursday, June 15th. He will check them again when they are in the ground.

Mr. Geist as well as Councilwoman Cusick will check on the status of both proposed ordinances with Mr. Scandariato.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McMahon initiated a discussion about the ongoing problem with the dying and dead ash trees in the borough. The trees must be removed because of the numerous issues involved. There was considerable discussion about how to best reach the residents who have ash trees on their properties. Each Commissioner will check out their zones for ash trees and forward the addresses to Mr. Trouf who will send out the appropriate letters.

Regarding CEUs, Mr. Melso will reach out to Colin Milde so that something can be scheduled.

Regarding Sunrise Terrace, Mr. Gubala noted that trees need to be planted; there is a \$15,000 budget. He will speak to each resident to determine the species they would like planted and to get their e-mails at the same time. He will then share that information with Mr. Trouf.

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 8:42 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, and carried unanimously.