

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 19, 2022. Also present were Ms. Geist, Mr. Gubala (arrived at 7:50 p.m.), Mr. Martone, Mr. McMahon, Mr. Schumacher, Commission members, Ms. Cusick, Council Liaison, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Mr. Beltramini, 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 Thursday, December 23, 2021 and the RIDGEWOOD NEWS on Friday, December 24, 2021.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Melso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. McMahon, the minutes of the April 21, 2022 meeting were accepted as received, with one abstention.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. McMahon asked about the date for the spring planting. Mr. Trouf indicated that the planting will be done in May. He noted that Pietro's does not have a dead tree. It was suggested that the spare tree be planted at 5 Navajo Avenue. The tree which is currently there is small enough that it could be yanked out by DPW.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

Ms. Cusick thanked the Commission for the Arbor Day observance. She noted that since there are limited funds, DPW could be utilized for some of the work, some work could be deferred to a later date, limbs rather than the entire tree could be taken down, trees could be topped and taken down later, and grants for tree work could be researched for additional funding. Mr. McMahon noted that DPW does do some of the tree work in the borough, but they know their limitations.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board of Adjustment minutes-April 20, 2022
Planning Board minutes-April 5, 2022, April 19, 2022

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS**27 Joshua Drive, Block 1404, Lot 10.27**

Mr. Martone reported that the trees slated for removal at the residence are either sickly or badly twisted. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. McMahon, the removal of thirteen trees 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 | | | | X |
| Mr. Rutkowski, Alt. 2 | | | | X |

397 Elbert Street, Block 1302, Lot 11.02

Mr. and Mrs. Colin Thurston were present to explain the proposed tree removal at their home. Originally, they had planned to ask for the removal of thirty-six trees but when they walked the property with Mr. Martone it was decided to save four of the thirty-six trees. Of the thirty-two trees to be removed, seven are dead, six are too close to the home, and the nineteen others have various defects. The trees need to be marked. Eventually some landscaping will be done on the property. The stumps will be ground. Perfect Cut is doing the work; the Thurstons were instructed to ask for his insurance. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. McMahon, the removal of thirty-two trees was unanimously approved, subject to the necessary labelling of the trees.

| | 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 | | | | X |
| Mr. Rutkowski, Alt. 2 | | | | X |

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. Work order #3 is done. At this point, there is \$55,000 left to spend.

The resident at 48 Manor Drive was not in attendance. The issue regarding overhanging branches of an oak tree is not a Shade Tree matter but rather something which needs to be worked out between the neighbors.

Work Order #3

134 Elbert Street-Dead wood will be removed from the right-of-way side.

60 Abbey Court-The spider branches will be removed from the trunks on two trees.

260 Grove Street (Green Acres)-Two trees will be dropped; the stumps should be left.

70 Blauvelt Avenue (next to Green Acres)-Two trees will be removed.

12 Elbert Street (across in Green Acres)-One tree will be removed.

30 Cobblestone Lane-One tree will be removed.

372 Canterbury Drive-A branch over the roadway as well as any dead branches will be removed.

70 Maple Street-Seven trees will be removed.

7 Mohawk Drive-Dead wood will be removed from the tree.

17 Thornhill Drive-One tree will be removed.

169 Twinbrook Court-One tree will be removed.

77 Fuhrman Avenue-One tree will be removed.

35 Hosking Way-Three trees will be removed.

39 Hosking Way-Three trees will be removed.

38 Hosking Way-Two trees will be removed.

4 Manor Drive-One tree will be removed.

7 Manor Drive-One tree will be removed.

126 Center Street (across the street)-The tree will be elevated and dead wood will be removed.

23 Cobblestone Lane (easement next to address)-The tree will be removed.

34 Linden Street (behind on the bikepath)-The tree will be removed; the stump should be left.

Work Order #4

36 New Street-One tree will be removed.

78 Ronald Court (rear yard on Abbey Court)-Two trees will be removed.

16 Woods Road-One tree will be removed.

COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

Mr. Melso reminded the Commissioners to keep their eyes open for any issues at the various commercial sites within their zones.

There might be a violation at 87 and 99 Spring Street, Block 3608, Lots 11 and 12, Ramsey Auto Group. Their presentation was tabled until June.

Mr. McMahon inspected and is okay with the work that has been done at Brothers BBQ (900 Route 17N, Block 4702, Lot 1). The front (phase one) is complete. The irrigation is in. Phase two must be completed by October 15th. Mr. Geist will send Ms. Sarna an e-mail indicating that the Shade Tree Commission is pleased with the work which has been done, noting that the lawn should be maintained. Mr. Trouf has also sent an e-mail.

It was noted that the property at Triangle Plaza has been mowed.

OLD BUSINESS

The inspection of the trees which were planted through the Community Forestry Grant never happened. Mr. Trouf did send pictures of the trees which were planted in the spring and fall, depending on the species. He was asked to complete a final report which he read to the Commissioners. Mr. McMahon helped to complete the report, including the planting of little leaf lindens, red oaks, and Armstrong maple trees to complete the report which he then read into the record.

A memo was received from Denise Bartalotta, CFO, regarding the Shade Tree Trust. Evidently, when the account was opened, it was never approved by the State. The State denied her resolution to keep the trust active. Therefore, the account had to be closed out and the money moved to the current fund. Mr. Geist will speak with the CFO to determine what needs to be done to bring the fund back.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. McMahon, and approved unanimously, the meeting moved into closed session at 8:17 p.m. to discuss the proposed ordinance amendment.

A motion was made following the Executive Session discussion. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Schumacher, and approved unanimously, Mr. Geist was directed to propose to the governing body an ordinance amendment holding tree cutters as well as homeowners responsible for improper tree cutting.

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 8:40 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Gubala, and carried unanimously.

