

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 16, 2022. Also present were Mr. Beltramini, Mr. Englishman, Ms. Geist, Mr. Gubala, Mr. Martone, Mr. McMahon, Mr. Rutkowski, Mr. Schumacher, Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Ms. Cusick, Council Liaison, 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 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. Beltramini, the minutes of the May 19, 2022 meeting were unanimously accepted as received. Upon motion by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Englishman, the minutes of the May 19, 2022 executive session were unanimously accepted as received.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Martone, Mr. McMahon, and Mr. Melso all commented positively about the latest planting by Ascape Landscaping. The only issue was on Goose Cove Lane. Mr. Melso commended Mr. McMahon and Mr. Trouf who did the right thing for the homeowner.

Ms. Geist shared information regarding a residence at Crescent Hollow. There are flooding issues in the area. The resident has not submitted a new landscape plan and he would need to do that to go ahead with his proposed plan and he would need to come to a Shade Tree meeting to discuss that plan.

Mr. Melso called attention to a recent newspaper article about the spotted lanternfly. Mr. Englishman also noted that there are problems with beech trees and black walnut trees.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS-None

COMMUNICATIONS

Planning Board minutes-May 3, 2022, May 17, 2022

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS

12 Manchester Court, Block 3002, Lot 17

Mr. Englishman reported that the trees slated for removal at the residence include thirteen ash trees, two maples, and one birch. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. McMahon, the removal of the aforementioned 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				
Mr. Rutkowski, Alt. 2				

101 Shadyside Road, Block 3002, Lot 21

Mr. Englishman reported that there are twenty dead ash trees which need to be removed. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. McMahon, the removal of the twenty dead ash 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				
Mr. Rutkowski, Alt. 2				

SITE PLAN REVIEW

The Housing Authority is removing/converting the DeSimone Avenue playground. Their presentation for the change in landscaping will take place at the July meeting.

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 began work order #1 for 2023. He also included the tree work which is being done by DPW.

The issue involving Leo Minervini (11 Joshua Drive) and Anesa Gandia (48 Manor Drive) was discussed. Mr. Minervini who was present delineated the ongoing issue with the overhanging branches of an oak tree. A large limb from the neighbor's tree had fallen and damaged his fence. He did hire an arborist to take a look at the trees in question. Ms. Gandia also reached out to a tree expert who reported that the pin oaks in question are not sickly; they have leafed out. Mr. Minervini does have the right to cut back the overhanging branches, but a tree contractor cannot do the work from Mr. Minervini's yard without using a crane. It was suggested that Mr. Minervini find a tree service that has a man-lift such as Downes Tree Service, Ridgewood Tree, or Top Notch Tree. They would only be able to cut to the fence line.

Work Order #4

36 New Street-One tree will be removed.

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

Bikepath (Carol Street to Chestnut Street)-Three trees will be removed, leaving the stumps.

20 Ronald Court-The dead branch over the wire will be trimmed.

16 Woods Road-One tree will be removed.

264 Island Avenue (North Spruce Street side)-One tree will be removed.

81 Ackerman Avenue-Three dead ash trees will be topped below the electric line.

6 Alida Place-The dead ash tree will be topped below the electric line.

12 Alida Place-The dead ash tree will be topped below the electric line.

Work Order #5

2 Mayfair Drive-One tree will be removed, leaving the stump until next year.

94 Oak Ridge Road-The tree will be topped.

88 Oak Ridge Road (near Green Acres)-Two dead ash trees will be dropped.

310 Canterbury Drive-The tree hanging over the roadway will be topped.

139 Sherwood Drive-One tree will be removed, leaving the stump until next year.

129 Ramview Avenue-Dead wood will be removed.

40 High Street-Dead wood will be removed.

2 Indian Valley Road-Two dead ash trees will be topped.

9 Goose Cove Lane-The stump will be ground.

DPW tree work 2022 #1

265 Davidson Avenue-Three trees will be elevated.

30 Indian Valley Road-Three branches overhanging the driveway and the dead leader at the center of the tree will be removed; the dead wood will be cleaned out.

27 Indian Valley Road-The hanging dead wood will be removed.

5 Navajo Avenue-The dead tree will be pulled.

19 Dogwood Terrace-The dead tree will be pulled.

100 East Oak Street-The dead tree will be pulled.

123 Darlington Avenue-The first row of lower branches will be removed from two trees.

Carriage Lane-Dead trees and branches will be removed.

3 Clearwater Road-The broken branch will be removed, and the lower branch will be trimmed.

Church Street-The broken branch will be removed.

100 Buckingham Drive-The broken branch and the dead wood will be removed.

2023 Work order #1

32 High Street-Two trees will be trimmed and shaped.

4 Lillian Court-The triple trunk tree will be removed.

119 Arch Street (Finch Street side)-The tree will be removed.

129 Ramview Avenue-The tree will be removed.

6 Alida Place-The rest of the tree will be removed.

12 Alida Place-The rest of the tree will be removed.

81 Ackerman Avenue-The rest of three trees will be removed.

94 Oak Ridge Road-The rest of the tree will be removed.

40 High Street-The tree will be removed.

2 Indian Valley Road-The rest of the two trees will be removed.

2 Mayfair Drive-The stump will be ground.

139 Sherwood Drive-The stump will be ground.

COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

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

Mr. Jaworski, Mr. Latincsics, and Mr. Minervini were present to discuss a re-vegetation plan at 87 and 99 Spring Street, Block 3608, Lots 5.01, 11, and 12, Ramsey Auto Group. Mr. McMahon noted that the landscape plan has not been completed for what was Liberty Travel. That would need to be done before a final CO can be issued. Before the Commissioners were ready to hear the details of the re-vegetation plan, the removal of thirty-six trees needed to be addressed; Mr. Jaworski had stated that the property in question had been clearcut. No permits had ever been secured for the removal of trees. It appears that the majority of the trees were removed from lot 12, at least thirty-one. Using the formula, the number of trees removed without a permit would be multiplied by \$850. Mr. Jaworski asked for a reasonable restitution amount. If a fine were to be imposed, the

amount due would be considerably higher. There was a question about the availability of a tree inventory. They will discuss what they consider a reasonable amount and come back to the Shade Tree Commission with that number. Further discussion of the re-vegetation plan was tabled until the next meeting. The issue was revisited by the Commissioners during New Business. The amount of the restitution could be designated as a donation and publicized as such. When Mr. McMahon follows up on the landscape plan for the Liberty Travel site, he will reach out informally to ascertain what would constitute a reasonable amount.

At the November 18, 2021 meeting, Mr. Jaworski and Mr. Latincsics had made a conceptual presentation regarding the right-of-way along the Route 17 ramp. Upon motion by Mr. Beltramini, seconded by Mr. Martone, presentation continuation was approved, with two negative votes. In the interim since November, Mr. Latincsics found the “right guy” at the Department of Transportation for the collaborative effort among the Ramsey Auto Group, the Shade Tree Commission, and the DOT. Green Giant Arborvitae was proposed and rejected by the DOT. So the new plan includes thirteen 2 ½ caliper inch Armstrong maples, planted 35 feet on center, and Seashore Juniper. The dead sycamores will be removed. The plantings will be mulched and maintained. The ground cover will be irrigated. Gator bags will be used for the maples. The proper herbicide for the plantings will be determined. The applicant will probably be the DOT since it is DOT property. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. McMahon, the Commission indicated that, subject to DOT approval, they are satisfied with the choice of planting.

	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				

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Trouf noted that since Ascape is looking for payment, the Commissioners should check the new trees in their areas.

Mr. Melso asked about the current status of the ordinance revision. Mr. Geist indicated that Borough Attorney Scandariato is working on the legal verbiage, and he should utilize

tree and/or landscape company. Mr. Geist will let the Commissioners know when the first reading of the ordinance is on the governing body's agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Trouf shared information about the NJUCF Stewardship Grant for payment of seventy-five percent of the cost of twenty-five trees which he will be filing once it is complete.

It was noted that no CEUs have been earned yet for 2022. Some suggestions such as a class with Colin Milde or online classes through Rutgers were offered as possible options.

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 8:49 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Schumacher, and carried unanimously.

