

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the June meeting for the public was held via teleconference. Masks were worn and social distancing was practiced by the Shade Tree Commission in borough hall. The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, June 18, 2020. Also present were Mr. Beltramini, Mr. Englishman, Ms. Geist, Mr. Martone, Mr. McMahon, Mr. Schumacher, Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Mr. Gubala, 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, January 3, 2020. The public notice specifying the details for the meeting appeared in the newspaper on Sunday, June 14th.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Melso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Martone, the minutes of the February 20, 2020 meeting were unanimously accepted as received. The March, April, and May meetings had been cancelled.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Martone asked Mr. Trouf about a Cherry Lane property owner.

Mr. Schumacher noted that the gator bags are not being filled for the new trees. When that was addressed with the borough, Mr. D'Agostaro indicated that he did not have enough manpower for the job; Mr. Trouf offered to fill the bags. The new trees are guaranteed for a year by Downes Tree Service, but they should be watered. The trees were planted in accordance with the parameters of a state grant. The payment is contingent upon an inspection. The grant is for sixty-five trees, not one hundred. There used to be a yellow tag placed on a newly planted tree, indicating that the residents should be watering their trees. The last trees were planted approximately two weeks ago. There was a question about whether the gator bags will be filled when the manpower is available. Mr. Beltramini noted that he has a truck which could be used for the watering.

COMMUNICATIONS

Environmental Commission Minutes-January 14, 2020
Resolution-Lithia Northeast-Lexus

Resolution-Lithia Northeast-Toyota
Amended Site Plan-Pep Boys

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS APPROVED

Borough Administrator Vozech had given permission for an ad hoc committee to approve the tree removals while the Shade Tree Commission was not holding its monthly meetings.

77 Shadyside Road, Block 3002, Lot 23-The permit was issued for the removal of eleven trees.

10 Lillian Court, Block 4205, Lot 23-The permit was issued on Monday, March 30th for the removal of a total of fifteen trees, the thirteen trees requested by the owner and two additional trees which are dead, according to Mr. Gubala.

8 Farmington Court, Block 2601, Lot 25.04-The removal of twelve trees was approved.

109 Deer Trail North, Block 3002, Lot 54-The removal of fifteen trees was approved.

160 Forest Avenue, Block 3510, Lot 13.01-Mr. McMahon provided information about the dual lot, part of which is in Mahwah. He visited the site and had no issue with the removal of thirty trees.

27 Hickory Place, Block 3211, Lot 18-Mr. McMahon visited the property and indicated that the ten hemlocks could be removed.

SITE PLAN REVIEW

Pep Boys, 755 Route 17 South, Block 4704, Lot 14

Mr. Beltramini presented the plan for the site which will give screening to the neighbors to the north. Proposed plantings include Green Giant arborvitae, evergreens, deer-tolerant shrubs, three Armstrong maples, spirea, a boxwood hedge, holly, hydrangea, juniper, and annual flowers. Soil testing had been done on the site. The trench indicated on the plan is for the electric. An irrigation system will be installed. At this point, Greenbelt is the landscape architect, not the landscaper of record yet. The plan has to go out to bid. Pep Boys should be responsible for the maintenance. The fence has been replaced; a neighbor has been keeping an eye on things. The resolution will indicate that approval is subject to installation of an irrigation system. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Englishman, approval of the plan was unanimously approved (Mr. Beltramini abstained), subject to the installation of an irrigation system.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Beltramini			X	
Mr. Gubala				X
Mr. Martone, Vice-Chairman	X			
Mr. McMahan	X			
Mr. Rutkowski				X
Mr. Schumacher	X			
Mr. Melso, Chairman	X			
Ms. Geist, Alt. 1	X			
Mr. Englishman, Alt. 2	X			

Ramsey Energy, LLC – 1065 Route 17 South – Block 4603, Lot 40

The plan had been approved by the Planning Board, subject to Shade Tree Commission approval. No information has been received from Dave Hals. There will be no discussion and/or approval until there is a response from Mr. Hals. Mr. Beltramini has pictures of the site and the adjoining property which he will share with the rest of the Commissioners. Mr. Melso will contact the person whose name is on the plan, Matthew Seckler.

Konica Minolta, 101 Williams Drive, Block 3902, Lot 2

The project is almost finished, probably by July. Mr. McMahan noted that the material being put in is very good. Marshall Fox extended an invitation to any Shade Tree Commissioners who would like to visit the property.

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS

Corner of Biscayne Drive and East Crescent Avenue

The house has been sold. One tree still needs to be planted on Biscayne Drive. The building department will be contacted once the planting is done.

38 West Cedar Place – Block 3101, Lot 49

Mr. McMahan and Mr. Trouf visited the site. Perfect Cut had removed a lot of trees, more than six, without a permit. The homeowner asked Mr. McMahan and Mr. Trouf to leave the property. A letter was sent, indicating that the work needed to stop due to the violation. If the work is not stopped, a summons will be issued. They then will need to appear in court and will probably be sent to a Shade Tree Commission meeting.

LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW

Courtesy plans for the Tisdale School (200 Island Road) improvement, the Mary A. Hubbard School (10 Hubbard Lane) improvement, and the Eric S. Smith School (2 Monroe Street) improvement had been forwarded to the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. McMahon had information about the work at Tisdale. Seven red oak trees were marked to come down to be replaced by five oaks, five maples, and five dogwoods. He had provided suggestions for the project at Tisdale. Mr. Beltramini indicated that the other two plans looked fine.

Ramsey Invest LLC, 70 Hilltop Road, Block 3702, Lot 4

Mr. Beltramini will visit the site. The dead junipers should be removed. Mr. Melso had previously noted that the trees on the perimeter of the parking lot need to be looked at.

Tree House Pediatrics

Mr. Martone will do a final inspection of the project.

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. The Commissioners were reminded to keep up with their residential inspections since everything is currently up to date. Mr. Englishman added properties on Shadyside Road and Mr. McMahon added 367 Woodland Avenue. At the current time, there does not appear to be any tree diseases in Ramsey.

Work Order 3

435 Elbert Street-Two trees will be removed.

8 Stony Brook Court-The dead wood will be pruned.

14 Wyckoff Avenue-Five stumps will be ground, four inside the fence and one by the sidewalk.

77 Mayfair Drive-One tree will be removed.

10 Schierloh Court-One tree will be removed.

93 Mayfair Drive-One tree will be removed.

56 Maple Street-One tree will be removed.

Work Order 4

291 Nottingham Road-Six trees will be removed.

55 Ronald Court-Two trees will be removed.

41 Highwood Road-Two trees are marked for dead wood and elevation.

2 Morton Drive-Branches at the wires will be pruned.

5 Morton Drive-A heavy limb will be removed.

116 Prospect Street-A branch will be trimmed at the wires.

18 Norman Drive-The stump will be ground.

11 Indian Valley Road-Two trees will be removed.

82 Cherry Lane-Branches will be trimmed back to make the Stop sign visible.

108 Myrtle Avenue-One tree will be removed.

2 Indian Valley Road (across the street)-Three branches, one broken, two leaning, will be removed.

186 Grove Street (walking path behind house)-Three trees will be removed.

288 Canterbury Drive-The tree in the wires will be taken down.

55 Ronald Court-Two trees will be removed.

59 Ronald Court-One tree will be removed.

87 Beech Street-Two trees will be removed.

455 Elizabeth Avenue-A branch will be removed from the phone wires.

32 Franklin Street-A dead tree will be removed.

11 Goose Cove Lane (borough lot on right)-Four marked trees will be dropped.

18 Linden Street-Dead wood will be trimmed, and two oak trees will be elevated.

18 Linden Street (behind house on bike path)-Three marked tree of heaven will be removed.

11 Linden Street-Dead wood will be removed from one oak tree.

17 Linden Street-Two oak trees along the road will be checked for dead limbs,

119 Buckingham Drive-The twin trunk will be removed, watching for the cable.

44 Eton Court-Dead branches will be removed.

100 Buckingham Drive-Dead branches will be removed.

116 Chestnut Street (behind on bike path)-The branches hanging over the fence will be trimmed.

8 Quail Run-One tree will be removed.

12 Quail Run-One tree will be removed.

Work Order 5

5 Quail Run-One tree will be removed.

6 Holly Court (left side in Green Acres)-Two trees will be dropped.

15 Center Street-One tree will be removed.

COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

The two dead trees were taken down at the Ramapo Valley Medical Center, 246 North Franklin Turnpike. Olive Garden, 66 Route 17 North, took care of the requested work. Weichert, 5 South Franklin Turnpike, has not gotten back to Mr. Trouf.

A new tenant will be taking over the HSBC Bank site at 17 Franklin Turnpike. They have indicated that the requested work will be taken care of.

OLD BUSINESS

Following up on information from the Communications, Mr. Beltramini noted that the approved plans for Toyota and Lexus are subject to Shade Tree approval. Mr. Trouf will contact Mr. Jaworski for an update and the necessary plans.

NEW BUSINESS

The tree work bid was awarded to Chris Fix Tree Care for the next two years.

Mr. Melso shared information about an ongoing dispute between the Peach Hill Townhouse Association and the owners of the property. Twenty-four trees are slated to be removed but nothing has been removed yet. They did not provide the Shade Tree Commission with any plan to be reviewed. The usual process needs to be followed for the removal of trees.

Mr. McMahon indicated that he would take ownership of a project to send the Shade Tree Commission's tree ordinance letter out to contractors and the creation of a database of the contractors.

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 9:13 p.m. upon motion by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Martone, and carried unanimously.

