

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, July 21, 2022. Also present were Mr. Englishman, Ms. Geist, Mr. Gubala, Mr. Martone, Mr. McMahon, Commission members, Ms. Cusick, Council Liaison, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Mr. Beltramini, Mr. Rutkowski, and Mr. Schumacher 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 June 16, 2022 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Martone reported on a tree on 329 Elbert Street which Chris Fix had also looked at. There is a dead branch which should be removed. Mr. Melso asked the arborist to take a look at the property and the Green Acres.

Mr. McMahon shared information about a special ash tree bid. Once a full list of ash trees is compiled by Mr. McMahon, it will be sent to Borough Administrator Vozech and Jack D'Agostaro. It will go out to bid sometime in November. There was a meeting of Mr. McMahon, Mr. Melso, Mr. Trouf, Mr. Vozech, Borough CFO Bartalotta, and Ms. Cusick (via phone) about the ash tree situation in the borough.

Mr. Martone asked about the status of the work on the ramp to Route 17S. Mr. Gubala explained that his "no" vote at the June meeting was due to what he considered an inadequate number of trees on the ramp.

Mr. Melso asked Mr. Geist for an update on the ordinance which may be ready by the August meeting. The necessary language has been sent to Borough Attorney Scandariato.

**COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS**

On behalf of the borough, Ms. Cusick would like to thank Mr. Trouf for his excellent work with the utilities and tree work.

Every new tree has a gator bag which has been filled. Mr. McMahan and Mr. Martone used a truck from Greenbelt Landscapes to utilize a pump which is an efficient way to fill the bags. An informative card for residents with a new borough tree could be a scout project.

She reminded the Commissioners to pay attention to the RAVE notices.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Board of Adjustment minutes-May 18, 2022

Planning Board minutes-June 7, 2022

**TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS****306 Elizabeth Avenue, Block 3403, Lot 8**

Jonathan Krehel, owner of the property, was present and distributed a handout of pictures. He would like to remove an oak tree at his cost so that he can repave and widen the driveway. The oak tree in question is pristine with a good crown and no disease; there is nothing wrong with it. Mr. Martone and Mr. McMahan both visited the property. The Shade Tree Commission does not okay the removal of trees which have no issues, and they do not want to establish a precedent. Upon motion by Mr. McMahan, seconded by Mr. Martone, the issuance of a tree removal permit was denied. Therefore, the tree cannot come down, but Mr. Krehel has the right to appeal the decision to the governing body.

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

**528 Wyckoff Avenue, Block 3509, Lot 18**

Mr. McMahon noted that the property in question needs a lot of cleaning up. The neighbors are aware of the proposed tree removal. The trees (hemlocks, spruce, pin oaks) to be removed are dead or in decline and will be replaced by at least three Prairie Fire crabapple trees. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Englishman, the removal of eight 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

**155 North Central Avenue, Block 1902, Lot 28**

Mr. Martone had visited the property with Chris from Mahwah Tree Service. He delineated the eight trees, four of which are invasive, to be removed so that the property can be cleaned up. There are wetlands in the backyard but the trees to be removed are not in the wetlands. Some really nice trees will remain. Shrubbery will be put in. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. McMahon, the removal of eight 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

**SITE PLAN REVIEW**

**TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS-None**

**LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW**

The Housing Authority is removing/converting the DeSimone Avenue playground. Vincent Bufis, Director of Operations with the Housing Authority, and Carmela Schommer, a landscape architect with H2M Associates, Parsippany, presented the change in landscaping. It was noted that the project was approved by the Planning Board and stormwater runoff had been addressed. They plan to repurpose the unused playground and add parking spaces, two of which will be ADA accessible. Mr. McMahon brought up the greenscape requirement. Thirty percent of the property must be pervious. It was stated that the pertinent variance was granted by the Planning Board. Greenspace will be reduced. Six evergreens will be removed. Three deciduous trees, two Norway maples and a black locust, and one pine tree will remain. Decorative stone was part of the plan, but the area will be mulched instead. Three American hollies and evergreen shrubs will be planted in the playground area. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Gubala, the landscape plan as presented with the substitution of mulch for the decorative stone 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

**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. There is approximately \$38,000 left in the budget. Work order #5 was estimated at approximately \$24,000. If anything can be deferred from that work order, it should be deferred.

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.

**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.

**100 Buckingham Drive**-The dead wood will be removed.

**6 Donna Court**-The large oak will be removed; the stump will be left until next year.

**7 Cobblestone Lane**-The branches will be trimmed away from the house.

**448 Shadyside Road**-Three trees will be elevated, and the dead wood will be removed.

**448 Shadyside Road (across the street)**-The tree will be removed. Perhaps Orange & Rockland will remove the tree.

**16 Momar Drive**-The tree will be removed.

DPW tree work 2022 #2

**Corner of Fawn Hill Court and Woodland Avenue**-The tree will be removed.

**70 Fuhrman Avenue**-A six-foot stub will be removed from a broken branch.

**368 Elbert Street**-The fallen branch will be removed.

**34 Indian Valley Road**-The fallen branches will be removed.

**50 Williams Drive**-The tree will be removed.

**20 West Main Street**-Two trees will be elevated.

**20 Quail Run**-The branch will be trimmed from over the driveway.

**Covert Court (DPW lot)**-The tree will be removed.

**25 Ronald Court/Franklin Turnpike**-The dead branch will be removed.

**293 Davidson Avenue**-The fallen branch will be removed.

**105 Park Street**-The fallen branch 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.

**40 High Street**-The tree will be removed.

**2 Mayfair Drive**-The stump will be ground.

**94 Oakridge Road**-The stump will be ground.

**139 Sherwood Drive**-The stump will be ground.

**6 Donna Court**-The stump will be ground.

**101 Broad Street**-The stump will be ground.

**42 Oxford Court**-Three trees will be removed; one tree will be elevated.

**15 Lillian Court**-One tree will be removed; dead wood will be removed from two other trees.

**8 Briarcliff Court**-Four trees will be elevated.

**10 and 26 Harlind Terrace**-One tree will be elevated at each location.

**310 Canterbury Drive**-The 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.

Regarding **87 and 99 Spring Street, Block 3608, Lots 11, 12**, Mr. Trouf spoke with Mr. Minervini about a donation/plaque versus a summons. There was a discussion about the best way to proceed. Mr. Trouf will reach out to Mr. Jaworski, requesting attendance at the August meeting so that the issues can be discussed again.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. McMahon asked about the seating in Chick-Fil-A. They currently do not have indoor seating due to COVID. There is only outdoor seating. At this point, they are essentially a drive-through restaurant which is not allowed in Ramsey. They will be returning to the Planning Board in August.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Melso asked about board member attendance at the August meeting so that there is a quorum. Ms. Cusick will ask about a council representative for that meeting since she will not be available.

**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 8:37 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Gubala, and carried unanimously.

