

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, August 18, 2022. Also present were Mr. Beltramini, Ms. Geist, Mr. Martone (arrived at 7:40 p.m.), Mr. McMahon, Mr. Rutkowski, Mr. Schumacher, Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Mr. Englishman, Mr. Gubala, and Ms. Cusick, 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 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. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, the minutes of the July 21, 2022 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Regarding 5 Sycamore Terrace, the arborist will be asked to write up an arborist report regarding three pin oaks which were mutilated by Clearview Landscaping and Tree Services and will not survive.

Mr. Melso asked Mr. Geist for an update on the ordinance, which should be completed soon. The necessary language has been sent to Borough Attorney Scandariato.

The grant was turned down because a tree inventory had not been submitted. There is a software package available which would allow the borough to create such a document. Forest Metrics is the name of one software package which could be used. It was suggested that a grant be sought for the tree inventory software including arborist costs which would probably be in the range of at least \$6,000 to \$10,000. Mr. McMahon estimated it would take three to six months to complete the work, utilizing volunteers and the arborist.

**COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS-None**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Board of Adjustment minutes-June 15, 2022  
 Planning Board minutes-June 21, 2022, July 19, 2022

**TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS**

**25 Fawn Hill Court, Block 2501, Lot 7.02**

Mr. Martone walked the property with the homeowner. There is a line of dead ash trees as well as a wild cherry leaning toward the house to be removed. There are a lot of trees on the property. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, the permit for the removal of the requested trees was unanimously approved.

	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			

**SITE PLAN REVIEW-None**

**TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS-None**

**LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW**

**The Wash Club, 506 Route 17, Block 5102, Lot 5**

Katie Razin of Wells, Jaworski & Liebman, LLP, and Scott Koenig of Lapatka Associates appeared on behalf of the applicant. The business was formerly Masterson’s. The project had been approved by the Board of Adjustment on June 15, 2022. Patrick Gonzales, one of the owners, was also in attendance. Mr. Koenig reviewed aspects of the site plan before moving to the landscaping for the property. There is a slight reduction in greenspace, from 31% to 30.3%. The existing stormwater detention basin between the car wash lanes will remain. There will be fourteen free vacuum stations as well as electric charging stations. The existing planting areas which remain will be maintained with an emphasis on improving curb appeal. Any plantings which are deemed “deer food” will be switched. There will be more greenery in the front, with porous pavement for stormwater management. A note needs to be added to the plan regarding the seven

parking spaces. Five overgrown trees closest to Route 17 and Brookside Drive will be elevated and the area around them will be cleaned up. The owner of the business indicated that ultimately the Shade Tree Commission will be more than happy with the landscaping at the site. The fencing that is on the property will remain. The irrigation will be updated. Suggestions were made for alternate plantings which will appear on the revised plan. In total, seven trees will be taken down, two in the front, four in the middle, and one in the back. The outside work will be done first. Planting will be the last step. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, the landscaping plan for The Wash Club, including the necessary revisions, was unanimously approved.

	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			

**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 and a list of stump grinding. Work order #5 is complete and there is approximately \$30,000 left in the budget. If anything can be deferred from that work order, it should be deferred.

Work Order #6

**11 Column Court**-The tree will be removed; the stump will be ground next year.

**329 Elbert Street (Green Acres)**-One tree will be dropped and cut in half. The dead wood 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.

**33 North Central Avenue**-The tree on the left entering Borough Hall will be elevated.

**25 North Central Avenue**-The branches hanging over the sidewalk at the Police Station will be trimmed.

**46 West Main Street**-Two trees in front of Pietro's will be elevated.

**10 Goose Cove Lane**-Top soil and seed will be put down.

**Abbey Court and Nottingham Road**-Branches will be pushed to the side of the road.

**17 Tulip Street**-Two trees will be trimmed and elevated.

**393 Elizabeth Avenue**-A hanging 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.

**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.

**245 Shadyside Road**-The tree will be removed.

**10 Buckingham Drive**-Branches from two trees will be trimmed from the wires.

Grind stumps-2023

**50 Williams Drive**

**2 Mayfair Drive**

**94 Oakridge Road**

**139 Sherwood Drive**

**6 Donna Court**

**101 Broad Street**

**16 Momar Drive**

**11 Column Court**

**4 Lillian Court**

**119 Arch Street**

**129 Ramview Avenue**

**40 High Street**

**310 Canterbury Drive**

**245 Shadyside Road**

**95 Elm Avenue**

## COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

Mr. Mello 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**, there will be no discussion until the September meeting when it is expected that the involved parties will be in attendance. Mr. Beltramini observed that the landscaping is still not complete at the former Liberty Travel site, 69 Spring Street. The quantity of the plantings needs to be increased. Tree guards have been put on most of the trees. The dumpster screening also needs to be done.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. McMahon shared updated information about the separate special ash tree bid. Once a full list of ash trees is compiled by Mr. McMahon, it will be sent to Borough Administrator Vozeh and Jack D'Agostaro. There are approximately thirty-five trees on that list so far. It will go out to bid sometime in November.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Dillon contacted the building inspector regarding a Spotted Lanternfly that was found in Finch Park. A link to information about the lanternfly from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture was put on the borough website. Basic dish soap in a sprayer has been effective.

Mr. Martone has deer guards available.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT-None**

Mr. Mello 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 8:23 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Schumacher, and carried unanimously.

