

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, September 15, 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, Ms. Cusick, Council Liaison, Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary.

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. Schumacher, the minutes of the August 18, 2022 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Colin Milde, the Shade Tree Commission's arborist, along with his son, Chris, was present to meet the Commissioners and to discuss CEUs. An ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) number is needed in some cases to earn CEUs. Mr. Milde can provide a one/two-hour class which would earn CEUs for the Commissioners, as well as for himself, one point per hour per Commissioner/arborist. Topics under consideration for such a class included planting depth, hazardous trees, canopy, and disease recognition. Various locations for the class were suggested. Mr. Milde will coordinate with Mr. Trouf as to date, time, and location. Mr. McMahon will forward an e-mail to Borough Clerk Bendian as well as the other boards, noting the availability of Mr. Milde if an arborist is needed.

Mr. Rutkowski noted that the tree at 94 Oakridge Road needs to be taken down before it can be added to the "Grind Stump" list.

There was a discussion about the number of dead ash trees which are still standing in the borough. A professional should be hired by residents to take them down.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

Ms. Cusick reported that Mr. and Mrs. Krehel appeared before the governing body to

appeal the Shade Tree Commission’s decision at the July meeting. They were denied permission to remove an oak tree on their property. The governing body decided to allow the removal due to safety and a line-of-sight hardship. Mr. Geist and Mr. Martone were present at the meeting. The Krehels will pay for the tree removal and replacement. It was observed that this was the first appeal in twenty years.

She further noted that the website information about the Spotted Lanternfly is quite helpful. The Environmental Commission had a lanternfly specimen and an informational flyer at its Ramsey Day booth.

COMMUNICATIONS-None

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS

361 South Central Avenue, Block 3301, Lot 29

Mr. Englishman visited the residence which has a line of “leggy” spruce trees and one dead ash tree which should be removed. Upon motion by Mr. Englishman, seconded by Mr. Martone, 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				
Mr. Rutkowski, Alt. 2				

SITE PLAN REVIEW-None

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS-None

LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW

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

Due to the development of a new landscaping plan which will be presented at an upcoming meeting, the approval (Resolution 14-2022) which was granted at the August meeting was unanimously rescinded, upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. McMahan.

	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				
Mr. Rutkowski, Alt. 2				

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 #6 is being worked on. Both Chris Fix and DPW are doing work at the library. The library landscaping is lacking. A letter has been sent to the library's neighbor to the left regarding the hedge which poses a problem with line-of-sight when exiting the library.

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.

394 Elizabeth Avenue-The dead wood will be trimmed.

27 Bedford Place-The dead wood will be trimmed.

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.

244 Myrtle Avenue-The double trunk ash tree will be removed.

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

244 Myrtle Avenue

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 **900A Route 17, Block 4702, Lot 1.01 (Brothers BBQ)**, Naomi Sarna and Arthur Schnaar, Project Manager, both joined the meeting via telephone. Mr. Schnaar noted that phase one is complete and was considered acceptable by the Shade Tree Commission. He asked, due to financial considerations, if phase two could be deferred until spring, 2023. The request was discussed by the Commissioners. Upon motion by Mr. Melso, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, acceptance of the appeal was unanimously denied. Phase two should be completed by October 15th.

	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				
Mr. Rutkowski, Alt. 2				

Regarding **620 Swan Street, Block 3606, Lot 1 (North Jersey Door)**, no one was in attendance to discuss the issue. The Planning Board would like the dumpster screened, either with fencing or possibly with plantings, such as arborvitae. Planning Board member, Joe Carey, suggested that the Shade Tree Commission be consulted. Several ideas were discussed but without more information, the issue was tabled.

Regarding **87 and 99 Spring Street, Block 3608, Lots 11, 12**, there will be no discussion until the October meeting when it is expected that the involved parties will be in attendance.

Regarding **180 East Main Street**, Mr. Melso explained the issue under consideration. A gravel strip was created on a piece of property next to The Store, replacing lawn. Many issues were raised, including violation of the mulch ordinance, reduction of greenspace, the potential hazard of gravel, new landscape plan needed. Borough Engineer D'Agostaro told Mr. Trouf that the gravel was okay and since Mr. D'Agostaro has jurisdiction over the right-of-way, discussion was concluded. Mr. Melso stated that since the Shade Tree Commission did not approve the plan, they should not be held liable should there be any injuries due to the gravel.

Regarding **Prestige Lexus**, Mr. Melso reported that they are looking for their certificate of occupancy. However, they did not follow the landscaping plan which they submitted. A letter will be sent to them.

OLD BUSINESS-None

NEW BUSINESS-None

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 8:45 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Beltramini, seconded by Mr. Martone, and carried unanimously.