

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the May meeting for the public was held via teleconference. Masks were worn and social distancing was practiced by those Shade Tree Commissioners in borough hall. The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 20, 2021. Also present were Mr. Beltramini (via telephone), Mr. Englishman (via telephone), Ms. Geist (via telephone), Mr. Martone (via telephone/arrived at 7:45 p.m.), Mr. McMahon, Mr. Schumacher (via telephone), Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney (via telephone), Mr. Kilman, Council Liaison (via telephone), Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Mr. Gubala and Mr. Rutkowski 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, December 25, 2020.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Melso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Englishman, the minutes of the April 15, 2021 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ms. Geist shared some exciting news about Mr. Geist. Earlier in the day, he delivered his daughter after the doctor had stepped out of the room. Congratulations to Jared and the Geist family!

A maintenance letter should be sent to Mavis Tire, 900B Route 17.

The grass is about a foot high at the house at the corner of South Central Avenue and Kimberly Court. The house looks abandoned.

Mr. Martone reported that the trees on the ramp off of Lake Street going to Route 17S are dead. A neighboring commercial property owner may be willing to plant some easy to maintain, salt-tolerant trees and maintain the area. Mr. Beltramini and Mr. Englishman will work on that project.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Board of Adjustment minutes-March 17, 2021, April 21, 2021, May 4, 2021  
 Planning Board minutes-April 6, 2021, May 4, 2021

**TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS****227 Wyckoff Avenue, Block 3201, Lot 12**

Mr. McMahon had walked the property. The residents would like to remove nine white pines which have a lot of dead branches and removed crowns. The neighbors have no problem with the removal; Mr. McMahon had no problem with the removal. Ridgewood Tree Corp will handle the removal. Upon motion by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Schumacher, the tree removal permit was unanimously approved. They will get the permit from Mr. Trouf.

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

**3 Sunwatch Court, Block 2601, Lot 50.06**

Mr. McMahon had walked the property. He reported that they would like to remove six severely declining ash trees of ten to fourteen-inch caliper as well as a standing dead maple tree. Upon motion by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Englishman, approval to waive the permit fee since the trees to be removed are ash trees was unanimously approved.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Beltramini, seconded by Mr. Englishman, the tree removal permit for 3 Sunwatch Court was unanimously approved.

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

**SITE PLAN REVIEW**

**M&M Supplies, 61 Grant Street, Block 3607, Lot 6**

Tom Lind, 752 White Birch Road, Washington Township, New Jersey, was sworn in by Mr. Geist for testimony. The landscape drawing that he submitted was not reviewed in April since it was not complete. He provided information about the clean-up he did when he took over the property. He added gravel to the property. He will fix whatever problems there are and add greenscape where he can. There are three different buildings on the property. Since there will be outside storage, the site must be enclosed so he plans to fence the entire perimeter. Thirty percent greenscape coverage is required; however, only 2.75 percent greenscape is shown on the submitted plan. He did not know about the thirty percent rule. Mr. McMahon clarified what is considered greenscape. At his Planning Board hearing, no one brought up the thirty percent rule. Mr. Beltramini suggested that Mr. Lind speak with Borough Engineer D’Agostaro for the checklist of elements which should be included in his plan. He will return in June with a new plan, submitting the required seven copies to Mr. Trouf.

**TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS-None**

**LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW**

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

Mr. Beltramini reported that the work on the property is complete. The maintenance of the property will be monitored.

**Peach Hill Condos, Block 4001, Lot 16.01**

Mr. McMahon has taken the lead on this project, which has been under consideration for well over a year; he summarized what has been done during that time. Martin Mulholland was sworn in by Mr. Geist for testimony. Mr. Mulholland was just elected to the Peach Hill Condos board as treasurer. There was an approved landscaping plan in place; the goal is to get the landscaping back to where it needs to be. Blue Meadow Farms has been hired to plant street trees. Mr. McMahon enumerated what needs to be done in addition to the street trees. The contract with Blue Meadow Farms needs to be amended. Mr. McMahon and Mr. Geist have both been in touch with Wayne Miller, the attorney for Peach Hill, and Angel from the property management company. They were directed to the Shade Tree Ordinance. Mr. Mulholland indicated that he is now aware of the full scope of the project and will get the design part of the project underway immediately. Seven copies of the resulting landscape plan will be forwarded to Mr. Trouf prior to the June meeting.

**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. Chris Fix is under contract until April, 2022.

Work Order #4

**116 Norman Drive-**The tree will be trimmed.

**10 Rosewood Court-**There are two trees with small hangers.

**518 Darlington Avenue (on Shadyside Road)-**The double trunk tree will be removed; the dead wood from the oak tree on the right side of the driveway will be trimmed.

**61 Crest Road-**The tree in the front will be removed. Three trees in the easement will be dropped. A section of a downed tree in the drainage easement will be cut out to allow water flow. The tree will be cut off the neighbor's fence.

**92 Maple Street-**The tree will be removed; the stump will be left.

**30 Snyder Avenue-**The tree will be removed.

**128 Snyder Avenue-**The hanging branch will be removed.

**11 May Court**-Four trees will be removed. The stumps should be flush cut.

**140 Snyder Avenue**-Two trees will be elevated.

**Veterans Park (Arch Street side)**-The Norway maple will be elevated and cabled; the dead low hanging branch will be removed from the red oak.

**Veterans Park (along walking path)**-The hickory tree will be elevated; the hanging branch will be removed from the black walnut.

**Veterans Park (around flag poles in center of park)**-The ten beech trees will be trimmed back and shaped.

**92 Buckingham Drive**-The stump will be ground.

**4 Amanda Court (behind in Finch Park)**-Two trees will be removed and the stumps will be left.

**25 Sun Valley Court**-The tree will be pruned and elevated.

**Momar Drive and Alder Drive triangle**-Seven trees will be elevated; the dead wood will be removed.

**84 Mayfair Drive**-The tree will be removed.

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

**147 Church Street**-The tree will be removed.

**Twinbrook Court and Orchard Place**-Sixteen stumps will be ground.

**30 Walnut Street**-The tree will be elevated and the lower suckers will be removed.

**34 Linden Street (behind on bikepath)**-The tree will be removed.

**277 Wyckoff Avenue (Oak Street side)**-The tree will be removed.

Work order #5

**29 Circle End Drive**-A branch will be removed and the stump will be ground further.

**8 Amanda Court**-The tree will be elevated.

**65 Fuhrman Avenue**-Two trees will be elevated and pruned.

**134 Summit Avenue**-The tree will be removed.

**2 Pine Tree Road (driveway side on Shadyside Road)**-One tree will be removed and dead branches will be pruned from two trees.

**Hemlock Road and Carriage Lane**-The tree will be removed and the stump will be left.

**257 Canterbury Drive**-A pine tree will be removed.

**99 Nottingham Road**-The stump will be ground.

**21 Indian Valley Road**-The tree will be elevated.

**10 Grandview Terrace**-The tree will be elevated.

**26 Grandview Terrace**-Dead wood will be removed.

**19 Biscayne Drive**-The stump will be ground.

**19 Bonnieview Drive**-The stump will be ground.

## **COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS**

As requested by Naomi Sarna, the owner of the property at 900 Route 17N (Block 4702, Lot 1.01), Len DiTomaso developed a landscaping plan for the site which had been looked at by members of the Shade Commission and was approved at the March meeting. However, nothing has been done yet. The last e-mail received from Ms. Sarna occurred on Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Trouf has heard nothing since then. There was discussion about how the Shade Tree Commission can do the plantings and send a bill. A lien would be put on the property. Mr. Geist referenced borough ordinance 3-13.6 which he read. The governing body would need to approve the action. Ms. Sarna will be put on a thirty-day notice; Mr. Geist will draft the appropriate letter which will be sent from the Shade Tree Commission.

Mr. Gubala had reviewed the plans for Sal's Pizza, 71 West Main Street, and the owner was not in compliance with the original landscape plan. Mr. Gubala discussed the landscaping with the owner and the site was cleaned up. However, no new plantings have been installed.

Regarding Triangle Plaza, letters and e-mails have been sent to Danny who is managing the property but there have been no responses. Mr. Trouf will send a text to him.

Regarding The Store, 160 East Main Street, no response to the sent e-mail has been received. Tony DiBenedetto is the building owner, and he will be sent a letter.

Regarding Ramsey Energy, 1065 Route 17S, the sign is ready to go up at the Amoco gas station, but they have not requested a final inspection for the sign. No landscaping has been done. They do have a CO. Concrete curbs are needed to divert the rainwater off of the property.

## LANDSCAPE PLAN FINAL INSPECTIONS

### Big Tows, 35 Grant Street

Mr. Martone reported that all of the plants are in, the irrigation is in, and the mulch is in. There was a slight modification from one dogwood tree and three maples to four dogwoods instead which looks appropriate and balanced. Everything looks good. Upon motion by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Schumacher, the final inspection for 35 Grant Street was unanimously approved.

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

### Pep Boys, 755 Route 17S

Mr. Schumacher reported that everything is in order, the sprinkler and the lawn have been taken care of. Two arborvitae in the back will be replaced. They have been operating under a temporary CO. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Schumacher, the final inspection for 755 Route 17S was unanimously approved.

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

**Ramsey Auto Group, 69 Spring Street**

Mr. McMahon reported that the landscaping is not complete. Arborvitae are missing. Their temporary CO expires on October 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be looked at again in June.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Aquascape Tree Services will plant fifty-two trees. Mr. McMahon will wrap the trees with gator bags.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The gator bags will be left on the trees from the last planting. Mr. Trouf noted that he is taking photos of all of the trees from the grant; there will be no in-person inspection.

**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 8:29 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Englishman, seconded by Mr. Martone, and carried unanimously.



