

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 17, 2021. Mr. McMahon conducted the meeting. Also present were Ms. Geist, Mr. Martone, Mr. Rutkowski, Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, and Mr. Trouf, Coordinator. Mr. Beltramini, Mr. Englishman, Mr. Gubala, Mr. Schumacher, Mr. Kilman, Council Liaison, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary 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 initially published in the legal ads section of the BERGEN RECORD and the RIDGEWOOD NEWS on Friday, December 25, 2020, and updated on Friday, June 11, 2021 (BERGEN RECORD) and Friday, June 18, 2021 (RIDGEWOOD NEWS).

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Melso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Melso, the minutes of the May 20, 2021 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. McMahon reported that the Shade Tree Commission in conjunction with the Environmental Commission through Mrs. Dey's involvement with Sustainable Jersey are recording the trees in the borough which have been impacted by the Emerald Ash Borer. He noted that thirty-three borough trees have been removed as well as seventy trees on private property. They will continue to record the ash tree removals in the borough.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Board of Adjustment minutes-April 29, 2021 (special), May 19, 2021  
Planning Board minutes-May 18, 2021  
Planning Board Amended Subdivision-June 4, 2021

**TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS**

**103 Park Street, Block 1308, Lot 16  
12 Manor Drive, Block 1701, Lot 11**

Permits had been issued for tree removals at the above properties.

**SITE PLAN REVIEW-None****TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS-None****LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW****M&M Supplies, 61 Grant Street, Block 3607, Lot 7**

Tom Lind, 752 White Birch Road, Washington Township, New Jersey, was available via telephone. He had submitted the required landscape plan to Mr. Trouf on the day of the meeting. Mr. Melso noted that the landscape architect, Richard Loeffler, did not certify the plan. The thirty percent greenspace had been indicated on the plan. There will be irrigation in the front and the sides, and he does plan to plant some flowers on the property. At this point, the entire back lot will be mulched. Mr. Lind is uncertain what he will be doing with the two buildings going forward. According to the plan, there will be more mulch than seed and sod on the property. There are four or five arborvitae on the plan in the back. Since there will be outside storage, he had been told that the site must be enclosed so he fenced the entire perimeter. There is gravel in the back which is where he has his three trucks; there is no curblin. He replaces his trucks when they reach 100,000 miles. He could park his trucks on the macadam. Mr. Melso would like the mulch replaced with grass in the whole back area and the arborvitae do not need to be planted. The two ash trees in the back will not survive. Mr. Lind was asked to have the plan revised and it will be revisited in July.

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

Mr. McMahon has taken the lead on this project. Blue Meadow Farms Landscape Architects, Franklin Lakes has been hired to complete the project. Mr. McMahon met with the project manager, members of the condominium board, and Dan Muller, the project's landscape architect. They were uncertain whether they would be ready for a June presentation. Mr. McMahon will check on their status for the July 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 #5

**175 South Central Avenue-The tree will be removed.**

**Valley View Drive (cul-de-sac)**-Two trees will be flush cut and the stumps will be left.

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

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

**5 Amanda Court**-Dead wood will be trimmed from the tree.

**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

**58 Highwood Road**-Two trees will be elevated and the dead wood will be removed.

**57 East Cedar Place**-The tree will be elevated and trimmed.

**16 Manor Drive**-The tree over the driveway will be elevated.

**11 Joshua Drive**-The stump will be ground.

**63 Elm Avenue**-The tree will be removed.

**60 Elm Avenue**-The leaning oak will be pruned.

**70 Elm Avenue**-Dead wood will be removed from the tree.

**95 Elm Avenue**-One dead sassafras will be removed; one oak will be pruned.

**375 Woodland Avenue (on Shadyside Drive)**-The tree in the rock wall will be removed; the stump will be left.

**104 Fuhrman Avenue**-One linden will be elevated and pruned.

**Nottingham Road (bottom behind Lima)**-Twelve Norway spruce will be trimmed out of the roadway; one tree will be removed and the stump will be left.

**83 Chestnut Street**-The tree will be removed.

**31 Joshua Drive**-Dead wood will be removed from the tree.

**463 Island Road**-One tree will be removed; two stumps will be ground.

**Woodland Avenue (Wyckoff Avenue to Shadyside Drive)**-The trees will be elevated and dead wood will be removed.

**East Oak Street (South Central Avenue to Wyckoff Avenue)**-The trees will be elevated and dead wood will be removed.

**West Oak Street (Wyckoff Avenue to Youngs Road)**-The trees will be elevated and dead wood will be removed.

**15 Kimberly Court**-The tree will be removed.

**19 Kimberly Court**-The tree will be removed.

**10 Valley View Drive**-Dead wood will be removed.

**East Oak Street (behind tennis courts)**-The dead standing tree will be removed.

Work Order #6

**75 East Oak Street**-Two trees will be removed, and twenty trees will be elevated.

**56 Sauna Road**-The tree will be removed.

## COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

Regarding **900 Route 17N, Block 4702, Lot 1.01**, two telephone calls were received, one from the landscaper who had spoken with "someone named Len" and the other from Naomi Sarna, the owner of the property. Both individuals indicated that they are having

difficulty getting estimates. Mr. McMahon called Len DiTomaso, who had developed a landscaping plan for the site, but he has not heard back from him.

Mr. Gubala had reviewed the plans from the 1980s for **Sal's Pizza, 71 West Main Street, Block 2308, Lot 3**, and the owner was not in compliance with that original landscape plan. Mr. Gubala discussed the landscaping with the owner and the site was cleaned up. However, no new plantings have been installed. A letter will be sent, and they will be requested to attend the July meeting.

Regarding both **The Store, 160 East Main Street, Block 4903, Lot 7**, and **Quick Chek, 40 Route 17N, Block 5504, Lot 3**, Mr. Trouf sent e-mails, but no responses were received. He followed up with certified letters to both businesses.

Regarding Mavis Tire, Mr. Trouf visited the business and secured the name of the owner. A letter was sent, and the grass was cut but the grass is growing long again. Mr. Melso initiated a discussion about what can be done to resolve the maintenance issues at the commercial properties in the borough. In some cases, the businesses do not even regularly cut the lawn and take care of the weeds; they do not seem to realize that regular upkeep of their properties is required. There would need to be an established process. Letters would need to transition into a summons. But timing is also an issue. Once a letter is received, they have fifteen days to cut the grass. In the past, the maintenance bond was used to be the way to get the maintenance done. Mr. McMahon suggested that the commercial property assignments be reviewed at the July meeting and that the commercial properties be checked in July and August. Letters regarding property maintenance can then be sent out in September.

Mr. Melso heard from the property manager at Triangle Plaza. The owner has approved everything which was suggested by Mr. McMahon and Mr. Melso during a walk of the property. Mr. Melso asked Mr. Trouf to contact Orange and Rockland about a broken light pole on the site.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Aquascape Tree Services planted fifty-two trees. Both Mr. Melso and Mr. McMahon commented upon the excellent stock which they planted. There were a few hiccups along the way, several of which Mr. McMahon shared. Mr. Trouf had started a list for next year's planting, but those trees were planted using the spare trees from this year. Mr. Trouf had gotten sixty gator bags and the Shade Tree Commission now has access to the DPW truck which has a water tank. Therefore, the new trees will soon get their gator bags.

Next year the new plantings list will be developed in February and March so that the bid can go out in March or April.

Mr. Melso asked the Commissioners to start thinking about the Green Thumb Award for the commercial properties.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. McMahon shared information about a nationwide Girl Scout project. They will plant five million trees in the next five years, a million trees per year. There is a badge which is earned for participation in that project. A Ramsey Girl Scout secured twenty trees which were planted in the back side of the Ramsey pool where there is good, rich soil. The work was completed on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. McMahon announced that the Public Comment portion of the meeting would last approximately five minutes per person.

Lou Giele, 328 Nottingham Road, asked who is in charge of clean up of the area. The trees by Lima were trimmed and there was a great deal of debris and garbage left there. Mr. Melso suggested starting with the Ramsey Country Club, but DPW and DOT were mentioned. Mr. Giele also asked about placement of a gate in the area. Tom Lanning from the DPW is looking into whose jurisdiction the location falls under.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. McMahon, and carried unanimously.

