

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 7:32 p.m., Thursday, August 19, 2021. Also present were Mr. Beltramini (by phone), Ms. Geist, Mr. McMahon, Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, Mr. Kilman, Council Liaison (by phone), Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Mr. Englishman, Mr. Gubala, Mr. Martone, 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 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. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, the minutes of the July 15, 2021 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Beltramini appreciated the newspaper article about the spotted lanternfly which Mr. Melso had forwarded to the Commissioners.

Mr. McMahon reported that DPW has removed the stakes and the gator bags from the 2020 tree planting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Planning Board minutes-July 20, 2021

Tree Top Pediatrics has submitted an amended site plan to add air conditioning. The plan is to add two trees to block the units. Mr. Trouf recommended that Shade Tree wait to contact them about their modified landscaping.

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS**63 Manor Drive, Block 14, Lot 1**

Mr. Martone had inspected the property and he was fine with the requested removals. Upon motion by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Ms. Geist, the requested tree removal 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

39 Upland Road, Block 1701, Lot 3.01

Mr. Martone had inspected the property and he was fine with the removal of the requested twenty-five trees. They are all tagged. There will be room for two borough shade trees. Upon motion by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Ms. Geist, the requested tree removal 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-None

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS-None

LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW**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; Dan Muller is the project's landscape architect. The submitted plan was ready for review. They had listed the existing plantings as well as what they propose to use as replacements. About ten to twelve trees need to be replanted. Following discussion, several items for an updated plan will be recommended including irrigation, power mark-ups, and contour lines on a certified copy. Seven copies are requested for the September 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. He is finishing up work order #6.

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.

Addison Place (Regency Park entrance)-The tree will be elevated.

30 Elbert Street-The tree will be removed. The dead wood will be trimmed in Green Acres.

59 Lake Street-The tree will be removed.

109 Sherwood Drive-The tree will be removed.

311 East Crescent Avenue (Cranberry Court side)-The tree will be elevated, especially on the house side over the vegetable garden.

6 Deer Trail North-The tree will be removed.

10 Lillian Court-The tree will be removed.

60 North Spruce Street-Three trees will be elevated, and the dead wood will be removed.

99 Island Avenue-The tree will be elevated.

124 Summit Avenue-The tree will be elevated, and two oaks will be pruned.

71 Cherry Lane-One tree will be removed and one tree will be elevated and pruned.

68 East Cedar Place-Two dead pine trees will be removed.

265 Norman Drive-The tree will be removed.

4 Thornhill Drive-Two trees will be elevated.

60 Elm Avenue-The tree will be removed.

1 Shadyside Road-The tree will be removed.

119 Buckingham Drive-The tree will be elevated and dead wood will be removed.

306 Nottingham Road-Two trees will be removed.

202 Nottingham Road-Two trees will be elevated and dead wood will be removed.

Napolitano's Pond and Lake Street-Three large and a small group of three trees will be removed, leaving the stumps.

East Oak Street and Twinbrook Court-Two trees will be removed, leaving the stumps.

4 Farmington Court-The pear tree will be pruned and shaped.

8 Sun Watch Court-One ash tree will be removed; the stump and exposed roots will be ground.

7 Sun Watch Court-One ash tree will be removed; the stump will be ground.

2 Pinetree Road (driveway on Shadyside Road)-One large oak tree will be removed and one oak tree will be trimmed. If possible, the stump should be ground.

186 Maple Street-One Silver Maple will be removed, and the stump will be ground.

Bikepath (across from 186 Maple Street)-Two trees will be removed, leaving the stumps.

7 Birchwood Lane-The tree will be removed.

43 Snyder Avenue-Branches will be removed from the phone lines (light elevation).

Work Order #7

8 Amanda Court-The tree will be removed.

463 Island Road-The tree will be removed, with Orange & Rockland. The stump and the roots that were not completely ground from the previous tree will be ground.

271 Davidson Avenue-Two trees will be removed.

270 East Crescent Avenue-Two trees will be trimmed from the wires.

COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

Regarding **900 Route 17N, Block 4702, Lot 1.01**, Naomi Sarna, the owner of the property, was available via phone. She has hired Len DiTomaso who had developed a landscaping plan for the site. They had just received a price for the irrigation. Mr. Beltramini indicated that the planting can go in first, before the irrigation. Mr. McMahon will speak with both Mr. DiTomaso and the person who will be installing the irrigation.

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. He had spoken to the third brother who was not at the meeting. Anthony Altadonna, 222 Mahwah Road, Mahwah, provided information about the landscaping work at the restaurant. His brother, John, 4 Diana Court, Woodcliff Lake, was also in attendance. The landscaping which was removed was dead and/or damaged.

Landscaping will replace what was there although there will be some "nuances." Regarding the plan, the stone wall was removed and set back. Because of sidewalk work, the trees were removed. About three-quarters of the new planting is done including the boxwoods in the front. Four red maples were problematic. One red maple was replaced. He proposed Eastern redbuds and Chinese dogwoods for the space. Mr. Beltramini suggested that the American holly which were removed be put back in. The groundcover which is eventually planted should not be a debris catcher. There is no irrigation on the property. The Shade Tree Commission must have an updated plant list and a certified plan completed by a landscape architect.

Regarding **Triangle Plaza, Block 4705, Lot 5**, the owner had approved everything which was suggested by Mr. McMahon and Mr. Melso during a walk of the property. But so far only the lawn has been mowed so Mr. Melso has tried to contact the property manager, Danny, again. Mr. Trouf had contacted Orange and Rockland about a broken light pole on the site; they removed the wires but there are red flags on the property. Mr. Beltramini observed that it seems that half of the shopping complex is being taken care of.

Regarding **Lincoln Plaza, 875 Route 17S, Block 4701, Lot 5**, planting has started.

Pep Boys, 755 Route 17S, Block 4704, Lot 14 was discussed. They are now mowing the property. There are two dead trees in the back.

Regarding **Ramsey Mitsubishi, 1355 Route 17S, Block 3804, Lot 1**, Robert Ferraro, attorney for the business, joined the meeting via phone as did Mark, the person in charge of landscape maintenance. The cars are now off of the landscaped areas so that the grass can be mowed. Mr. Ferraro did not know who, the lessee or the lessor, is responsible for the landscape. In addition to the grass, there are four sugar maples on the Spring Street side of the property which need regular care. Mr. Beltramini noted that there is a dead tree in the back of the property. Mr. Ferraro indicated that there was a tree which fell over the fence in the back, damaging two cars. They are working with their insurance company and the borough's insurance company. Mr. Trouf was asked to visit the property to determine whose tree did the damage to the cars.

Other commercial locations which need maintenance include 581 North Franklin Turnpike, HBSC, and the Weichert building.

OLD BUSINESS

The color used to mark trees has been changed to white. The red paint which Mr. Trouf has will be used up first.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Melso asked for recommendations for the Green Thumb award. Wendy's, McDonald's, and the shopping center next to Lexus were suggested. A decision will be made in September.

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 8:52 p.m. upon motion by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, and carried unanimously.