

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. McMahon at 8:03 p.m., Thursday, June 17, 2010. Also present were Mr. Beltramini (arrived at 8:08 p.m.), Mr. Brisby, Mr. Fitzsimmons, Mr. Gubala, Mr. Martone, Mr. Rutkowski (arrived at 8:05 p.m.), Commission members, Mr. Siemsen, Council Liaison, Mr. Sprague for Mr. Cillick, Board Attorney, Mr. Smith, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Mr. Schumacher was absent.

Mr. McMahon 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 Monday, December 28, 2009 and in the legal ads section of the RIDGEWOOD NEWS on Friday, December 25, 2009.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Mr. McMahon, seconded by Mr. Fitzsimmons, the minutes of the May 20, 2010 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. McMahon welcomed Mr. Gubala to the Shade Tree Commission.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. McMahon announced that the Public Comment portion of the meeting would be opened at 8:04 p.m. and would last approximately fifteen minutes.

Mrs. Donna Lecourieux and Mr. Wannick Lecourieux, 122 Jean Street, were present to explain the situation with their driveway and the placement of trees which makes backing out very stressful. Jean Street has many pedestrians, joggers, and dog walkers as well as much school traffic. For safety reasons, they propose removing and replacing two trees. Mr. McMahon noted that the two trees in question are sixty-year-old thirty-caliper-inch red oaks. Both trees are in their prime and worth a lot of money. He also observed that there is a lot of vegetation in the front yard which impacts visibility. Following discussion, it was decided to check with Craig Weber, traffic officer for the borough, who will be asked to evaluate the line of sight issue.

Ms. Eva Cohen, 16 Arrowhead Court, presented the problem with her front yard which has a steep slope. There is considerable soil erosion and a root system issue with three trees, a white pine and two maples. Mr. Martone visited the property and he suggested that all three trees be removed. Once she removes her trees, the white pine and one of the maples, she should contact the Shade Tree Commission and the borough's maple tree will be removed. A replacement tree will be planted in the spring.

Mr. Steve Forbes, 19 Airmount Avenue, reported that the plans for the Airmount Commons townhouses do not match reality. They cut the hill completely out. Many trees have been removed. More screening is needed. An inspection will be done to ascertain compliance with the submitted plan.

Mr. Al Braggin, 25 Franklin Street, asked about the status of the ordinance which deals with withholding of a certificate of occupancy. At the May meeting, he had suggested that the item be put on the monthly agenda and be left there until it is done. He observed that the item did not appear on the June agenda. He was also told that since Mr. Cillick was on vacation, 112-114 West Oak Street would not be discussed. In response to his question, he was told that the public would be able to comment upon "The Castle" plan.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Minutes

Board of Adjustment-April 21, 2010, agenda-June 16, 2010

Design Review Board-April 27, 2010

Environmental Commission-April 13, 2010

Planning Board-May 4, 2010, agenda-June 10, 2010

Also received and filed were:

1. Board of Adjustment memorializing resolutions, from the May 19, 2010 meeting
2. Planning Board memorializing resolutions, from the June 1, 2010 meeting

## LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW

Jim Jaworski, attorney for "The Castle," was present to request a waiver with respect to the tree location plan beyond the line of disturbance. That area is sensitive with delineated wetlands and he maintained that intrusion into the area to tag the trees would be unnecessary. The state DEP has already issued an LOI for the wetlands area. Therefore, the area would have Shade Tree Commission, Bergen County Soil, and DEP oversight. Any violations would result in fines. The trees in the ten-foot buffer zone would be tagged. The line of disturbance would be delineated with a silt fence and an orange snow fence. Ten feet beyond that, a silt fence or snow fence would indicate the buffer zone. Through discussion, it was suggested that a temporary chain link fence be put up at the point of construction to ensure no intrusion. Mr. Braggin stated that, in his opinion, the requested waiver would be a violation of Shade Tree Commission principles. A full tree location plan has always been required. He noted that promises made do not always mean promises kept. He later suggested that, in lieu of tree tagging, photographs be taken of the wetlands area. Upon motion by Mr. McMahan, seconded by Mr. Martone, the tree tagging waiver for the sensitive area was unanimously approved,

subject to appropriate fencing and tagging in the buffer zone as discussed. A summary letter will be sent to Mr. Jaworski as well as the Board of Adjustment.

#### **SITE PLAN REVIEW-None**

#### **TREE REMOVAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS/VIOLATIONS**

##### **112-114 West Oak Street (16 Hubbard School Lane)**

Since Mr. Cillick was not at the meeting, discussion of 112-114 West Oak Street was deferred to the July meeting. Mr. Braggin noted that he felt there were several false statements in a communication which was received from Mr. Krawczyk which he will be discussing with Mr. Cillick. He suggested that the Shade Tree Commissioners review the Krawczyk letter.

#### **PLANNING BOARD APPLICATION STATUS-None**

#### **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT APPLICATION STATUS**

1. The Castle, Route 17N-First hearing took place on June 16th

#### **SHADE TREE COMMISSION APPLICATION STATUS-None**

#### **RESIDENTIAL SITE INSPECTIONS**

Mr. Smith will remove trees from the list as necessary. He noted that all stakes and wires were removed from the trees which were planted in 2009. Six trees were dead and they will be replaced in the fall.

**136 Sherwood Drive-**Mr. Schumacher will inspect the borough tree which the resident feels is dead and should be removed.

**63 Manor Drive-**The resident would like the dead branches removed from her borough trees. She would like the trees on Manor Drive inspected since she thinks they are dying from the bottom up. Mr. Martone reported that the soil on Manor Drive is poor; he will check the trees again.

**4 Joshua Drive-**Mr. Martone marked the dead maple which will be removed by the DPW.

**Finch Park-**The tree by the baseball field and the refreshment stand will be taken care of by the DPW.

**68 Bedford Place-**The resident is concerned about two large branches over the wires.

**129 Canterbury Drive at Hart Street**-The tree in question was struck by a car and an accident report was filed. Kurt Sumner looked at the tree and indicated that removal is indicated due to the wound to the tree.

**67 Alder Drive**-The resident would like the tree elevated and the dead branches removed.

**Franklin Turnpike/8 Norman Drive**-The county will remove the two dead trees.

**31 Elm Street**-Trees in the backyard may have Asian beetles. Kurt Sumner will inspect.

**19 Norman Drive**-The DPW will handle the stump removal.

**16 Lantern Lane**-Mr. Martone would like Kurt Sumner to look at the tree.

**110 North Island Avenue**-Mr. McMahon and Mr. Smith will look at the two trees, one which the resident feels is dying and one which the resident feels is dead.

**518 Darlington Avenue**-The resident would like the county tree removed.

**33 Ferguson Place**-Chris Fix will grind the stump.

**9 Rosewood Court**-The resident has a large broken branch which needs to be removed.

**17 Rosewood Court**-The resident has two trees to be trimmed and elevated.

**Canterbury Drive and Prospect Street**-Chris Fix will remove five dead elms with assistance from Orange & Rockland.

**9 Schierloh Court**-Mr. McMahon and Mr. Smith will inspect the large branch over the wires.

**Brittany Court**-A resident would like all of the trees on the street trimmed. Mr. Rutkowski inspected the trees and ascertained that not all of the trees need to be trimmed. Those that need trimming will be put on the winter list.

**Lakeside Drive and Franklin Turnpike**-The county will remove the large dead tree.

**68 Manor Drive**-Mr. Martone will inspect the tree which the resident would like trimmed and elevated.

**124 Deer Trail North**-Borough Administrator Saros will determine if the trimming is the responsibility of the Shade Tree Commission.

**Fuhrman Avenue**-Kurt Sumner has ascertained that the sycamores are in decent shape. The homeowners will be sent a letter from Mr. Cillick.

**82 North Spruce Street**-The resident cut down every tree on the property, including two borough trees which were cut and ground without any permits. Kurt Sumner is working on his arborist's report regarding the property. A stop work order has been issued.

**19 Cobblestone Lane**-Mr. McMahon and Mr. Smith will inspect the tree which the resident feels is half dead.

**Monte Park (Norman Drive)**-Mr. Saros is looking into the clean-up of this twelve-acre Green Acres area.

### COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

The Commissioners will be inspecting their assigned sites to ascertain the landscaping status. Mr. McMahon and Mr. Smith will take Mr. Gubala on one of their inspection runs.

### OLD BUSINESS

Rescheduling with Kurt Sumner will take place during September after Labor Day. At least four Commissioners must participate to earn the credits.

The Arbor Day tree planting at the Smith School cul-de-sac will take place on Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The hole will be dug and the tree will be planted. Mr. Fitzsimmons will speak with Dr. Wiener, Smith School principal.

### NEW BUSINESS

Fourteen hemlocks will be taken down on Fuhrman Avenue/Elm Avenue. The work will be sent out for quotes.

Mr. Martone reported on a hazardous condition on Route 17. The Ramsey Outdoor Store sign is not visible since it is blocked by a Norway maple. Mr. Smith will check with Mr. Saros regarding responsibility.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, and carried unanimously.

