

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, February 21, 2019. Also present were Mr. Beltramini, Mr. Englishman, Ms. Geist, Mr. Gubala, Mr. Martone, Mr. McMahon, Mr. Rutkowski (arrived at 8:08 p.m.), Mr. Schumacher, Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, Mr. Kilman, Council Liaison, Mr. Knauss, 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 Saturday, December 8, 2018 and the RIDGEWOOD NEWS on Friday, December 14, 2018.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Melso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Beltramini, seconded by Mr. McMahon, the minutes of the January 17, 2019 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Englishman and Mr. Melso met with Mr. Minervini of Ramsey Auto Group at Ramsey Chrysler on Route 17. When he is fully moved into the Liberty Travel site, he will remove the cars from the island and plant six or seven Norway spruces.

Mrs. Dey and Mr. Knauss shared information about a proposed Arbor Day poster contest to be sponsored by the Shade Tree Commission. They will finalize the proposal for the March meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Minutes-
Board of Adjustment-November 26, 2018
Environmental Commission-November 13, 2018
Planning Board-February 6, 2019

Also received and filed were:

1. Board of Adjustment memorializing resolutions, from the November 26, 2018 meeting

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT HEARING**20 Alida Place, Block 1602, Lot 12**

Geoffrey Kennedy was present with information regarding the removal of twelve trees on his property. The plan is to raise the grade in the back due to a significant slope to allow for an addition with a new deck. Mr. Martone walked the property. The twelve trees to be removed are not in good shape and a large chunk of wooded area will remain. Mr. Beltramini asked about a soil movement permit which needs to be secured first. Mr. Kennedy was instructed to contact the Borough Engineer. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Beltramini, approval to remove twelve trees was unanimously approved, subject to project approval by the Borough Engineer. A letter should be sent to the Shade Tree Commission regarding the soil movement.

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

SITE PLAN REVIEW**Bank of America, 76 East Main Street**

Brightview Enterprise Solutions has been retained by Bank of America. Orlando Feliciano had been present at the September meeting with a revised landscape plan. He suggested that the project be done in the spring. Some of the varieties will be changed from the March 1974 plan. The maple tree on the center island will be removed. There are four trees on Spruce Street which are borough trees. Following removal, those stumps will be ground. Six large trees must come down; they are marked. Leland cypresses, western arborvitae, or boxwood were suggested replacements. All new plantings need to be trimmable. Irrigation will be added to the site. This project will be a total renovation. Little leaf lindens (Spruce side) and cherry trees (Prospect side) were suggested where there are wires. Spirea will be planted in front. There will be an evergreen hedge with some daylilies and liriop. The bank has some safety requirements for the ATM. A revised plan will be available at the March meeting.

Konica Minolta, 101 Williams Drive, Block 3902, Lot 2

This plan will be continued until construction is complete.

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT VIOLATIONS**Corner of Biscayne Drive and East Crescent Avenue**

Four trees were taken out by Mr. Dean and four trees should be going in. A permanent certificate of occupancy will not be issued by the borough's building department until the builder meets all of the Shade Tree requirements and the trees are planted.

PDL, 25 North Spruce Street

In July, Michael Inserra had been in attendance to discuss the removal of shrubs without approval. He reviewed what had happened on the site through the years. There was a landscape plan from 1964 which was referenced. Mr. Inserra noted that everything was removed fifteen years ago because of a contamination problem from an oil tank. He would like to put rocks on the site as Varka and Results Personal Health & Fitness have done. Mr. Melso told him that rocks are not acceptable. One of the businesses is a dog groomer and he would like to make a small dog park, perhaps using ornamental grasses for screening. He noted that a summons has been issued by the Board of Health, so he is dealing with that board as well as Zoning and Shade Tree. Mr. Melso indicated that the remedy should begin with the Board of Health. Mr. Inserra will ask for guidance from them initially and then Shade Tree for planting suggestions. Mr. Gubala reiterated that he would like to see some planting done on the site. At the September meeting, Mr. Inserra shared a drawing which was not acceptable as a formal plan. He would like to duplicate what is now at the shopping center. Jim Trouf, Zoning Officer, sent a letter to Mr. Inserra, requesting that he attend the February meeting. Mr. Inserra will attend the March meeting.

LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW**McDonald's, 846 Route 17N, Block 4702, Lot 2**

Martin Swaggard of Core States Group, representing the McDonald's Corporation, had been present at the August meeting. He reviewed the remodeling work which was done on the site, including the second drive-through lane. Parking spaces will be reduced from sixty-three to forty-eight because extra turning room is needed. The project is ADA-compliant. The percentage of greenspace is essentially unchanged. The existing beds are stone with landscaping. The island landscaping should be mulched with no stone. There will be new curbing on the island. Mr. Melso noted that there is no listing of what plantings currently exist on the site. For a complete landscaping plan, that information is needed. A new plan, including the island, was received on Monday, September 17th. Mr.

Melso reported that the island is done, and the rocks are out. They are waiting until spring to finish the project.

495 North Franklin Turnpike

In July, Donato D'Angelo and his son were present to discuss the removal of trees at the Franklin Turnpike site. There is a landscape plan which needs to be followed. He was told that if changes were made to that landscape plan, he would need to return to the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. D'Angelo indicated that trees on the site have been destroyed during storms. Salt-tolerant trees are needed. It was suggested that he secure a copy of the original plan from Mr. Smith so that he is aware of what should be on the site. The Shade Tree Commission will work with him to bring the site back to the way it should be. He was also told about the problem with water run-off from his property which is going on to the neighboring property at 503 North Franklin Turnpike. The Belgian blocks on his property need to be pitched in a different way to stop that run-off. The project will be continued.

Imperial Marble and Granite Co., 663 East Crescent Avenue, Block 4001, Lot 19

At the October meeting, Tibor Latincics, Conklin Associates, reported that the plan for the site is to construct a large concrete storage slab. There is a forested slope with no tree inventory since no trees will be removed. No trees will be removed in the open lawn area. He will return in March to make a formal presentation.

Treehouse Pediatric, 100 and 106 North Franklin Turnpike, Block 4604, Lots 3, 4

The revised plan was received from John McDonough Associates on Thursday, February 14th.

LANDSCAPE BOND REVIEW-None

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 conveyed to Mr. Knauss about what to do with the stumps.

100 Fuhrman Avenue-The tree will be trimmed and dead wood will be removed.

211 South Central Avenue-The county will remove one tree and grind the stump. The contractor will trim one tree.

205 Momar Drive-The tree will be elevated.

74 Wyckoff Avenue-The tree is marked and is scheduled for removal by the county.

72 West Main Street-The county will remove the tree.

16 Column Court-The resident would like a tree removed.

42 Addison Way-Three trees are marked, and they will be elevated.

COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

The Shade Tree Commissioners continue to check their assigned areas. Mr. McMahon was asked to check the Best Western site.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Knauss submitted the paperwork for Tree City 2018 on Thursday, January 31st.

There is an open invoice in the amount of \$1,500 from Downes Tree Service. The trees were not up to the specs. The DPW will fill the gator bags. The grates will be moved on the Village Square side and then Downes will plant the required trees.

The tree at the Addison Place/Island Road project was not removed. The tree in question will continue to be watched.

The replacement tree list was completed and given to Borough Administrator Vozeh who will be working on a New Jersey grant for those trees.

Mr. and Mrs. Fullam were again present with further information regarding the removal of an oak, a borough tree, at 418 Elizabeth Avenue. Reviewing what had been said at the January meeting, they had an issue with their sewer line on Tuesday, January 1st. When looking for the sewer line, which had been mis-marked, it was found that the line went right through the root ball of that oak. Mr. Fullam noted that approximately half of the tree did not leaf in the spring of 2018 and the tree was dying. He said that he did call the borough for assistance. The tree was removed by Chris Fix on Thursday, January 17th; his \$1,100 invoice for tree removal and grinding of the stump has been received. Mr. Hasbrouck, the borough arborist, submitted his report, including a cost of \$8,500 for the removed tree. Mr. Fullam distributed information from David Freeman, a horticulturist whom he had been working with. That information included all that Mr. Fullam had done to save the tree. Initially it was suggested that the Mr. Hasbrouck and Mr. Freeman come to the March meeting to further discuss the situation. Mr. Fullam stated that he would pay \$1,100 for the tree removal but he would not pay \$8,500 for the removed tree. A summons would have to be issued and he would go to court. Mrs. Fullam noted that

no one had expected the sewer line to be where it was. It had been mis-marked. Mr. Gubala moved that Mr. and Mrs. Fullam pay the \$1,100 for the tree removal. Mr. Fullam then indicated that he would be willing to plant a tree at his expense. Mr. Gubala amended his motion to an amount of \$1,500 to cover the cost of removal and one new tree. Mr. Geist noted that the motion should be phrased in the form of an offer to Mr. and Mrs. Fullam. Mr. Fullam was asked if he would be willing to plant two trees and he replied affirmatively. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Schumacher, and approved unanimously, Mr. and Mrs. Fullam will pay \$1,100 for the tree removal and the cost of up to two trees, estimated to cost \$550 each with a two-year guarantee, resulting in a maximum cost of \$2,200. Mr. Martone and Mr. McMahon will visit the property to determine whether one tree or two trees will be planted. Mr. McMahon will call for a new mark-out.

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

Mr. Melso had spoken with Mr. Vozech about the possibility of having a Shade Tree Commissioner on the Planning Board. Due to a state statute, that is not possible.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Knauss will submit to the Ramsey Journal what was done in the past.

Mr. Beltramini shared some information from the Planning Board and Environmental Commission minutes for discussion and clarification.

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 9:07 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. McMahon, and carried unanimously.

