

**RAMSEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Ramsey Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Mr. Melso at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, June 20, 2019. Also present were Mr. Englishman, Ms. Geist, Mr. Gubala, Mr. Martone, Mr. Schumacher, Commission members, Mr. Geist, Board Attorney, Mr. Kilman, Council Liaison, Mr. Trouf, Coordinator, and Mrs. Dey, Secretary. Mr. Beltramini, Mr. McMahon, 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 on Saturday, December 8, 2018 and the RIDGEWOOD NEWS on Friday, December 14, 2018.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Melso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Prior to the start of the meeting, the “Trees are Terrific” poster contest winners were recognized. There were twelve winners from the three elementary schools, nine of whom were in attendance. They were each awarded a certificate, \$25 gift card, and tree bookmark.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Schumacher, the minutes of the May 16, 2019 meeting were unanimously accepted as received.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Schumacher noted that the hedges which belong to the library’s neighbor on the left-hand side need to be trimmed. A letter has been sent.

Ms. Geist reported that there is a lot of brush at the ramp onto Route 17S. Clearing the site would be a state job. Mr. Trouf spoke to a state representative who said that they would spray and trim. There also is an area by the light at Crescent Avenue/Lake Street which is state property which also needs trimming.

COMMUNICATIONS

Minutes-

Environmental Commission-April 9, 2019, May 14, 2019

Planning Board-April 2, 2019, April 16, 2019, May 7, 2019, May 21, 2019

Also received and filed were:

1. Planning Board resolution from the May 21, 2019 meeting

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT HEARING

4 Arrowhead Court, Block 1702, Lot 2.5

Paul Rostowski, owner of the property, and Len DiTomaso, landscape architect, 30 Franklin Avenue, Oakland, were present to discuss the plan. Mr. Martone had walked the property and the trees which are to be removed were agreed upon. Perfect Cut will be handling the removal. Upon motion by Mr. Gubala, seconded by Mr. Englishman, the removal of seventeen trees and three hemlocks was unanimously approved.

	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	X			
Mr. Englishman, Alt. 2	X			

125 Summit Avenue

Steve Nassau, the owner of the property, was present to discuss the plan. The house has been demolished. A new house and a pool will be going in. The wooded area to the rear of the property will remain. Six trees have been removed in the front. Mr. Englishman walked the property. The trees to be removed have been tagged and are numbered on the plan. The plan for the property will conform to that of the other neighbors with swimming pools. Orange fencing will protect the trees which will remain on the site. The name of the tree cutter is needed. Mr. Englishman proposed one street tree for the property. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Englishman, the tree removal request for twenty-six trees was unanimously approved.

	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	X			
Mr. Englishman, Alt. 2	X			

24 Farmington Court, Block 2601, Lot 25.08

Stephanie Palumbo, owner of the property, was present to explain the backyard project. There is poor drainage in the wet backyard. A plan was developed by Tibor Latincics of Conklin Associates with re-grading of the property with well-draining sandy soil and inclusion of a drainage system. Four trees need to be removed as soon as possible because they have rotted at their bases. The property is not in a floodplain and not in wetlands. The project is currently in the permit process for the soil movement. Perfect Cut will be removing the trees. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Englishman, the removal of seventeen trees was unanimously approved, subject to final approval of the Borough Engineer and receipt of the permits.

	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	X			
Mr. Englishman, Alt. 2	X			

SITE PLAN REVIEW

Bank of America, 76 East Main Street

Brightview Enterprise Solutions had been retained by Bank of America. Orlando Feliciano of Brightview had presented the landscape plan. Because of the Bank of America timetable, the plantings which were put in were mulched. The borough trees will be going in after the plantings. Ongoing work on the project has been delayed because of lighting decisions.

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

This plan will be continued until construction is complete. Mr. McMahon and Mr. Martone will be keeping an eye on the construction. Some planting has begun on the site.

The Store, 160 East Main Street

No one was present from The Store. There is a conflict between the landlord and the tenant. They will appear when that conflict is worked out.

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. Mr. Melso noted that the houses are not sold.

61 Grant Street

It was not necessary for Mr. Lind of M&M Supplies Inc. to appear again at this point in his project. He has cleaned up the site and is preparing an application.

Ramsey Square, 1300 Route 17

Michael Tode, 325 Godwin Avenue, Midland Park, the landscape contractor for the site, was present to update the plans for the property. At this point, just maintenance is being done, including cutting the grass and pulling the weeds. He shared the planting plan from TMP Design Studio, 74 Rivers Edge Drive, Little Silver, which includes an island, boulders on the hillside with planting pockets to retain the soil which will soften the look of the boulders, and concrete curbing. All plantings, including new perennials, drought-resistant plantings, liriope, and ornamental grasses, will be mulched. They will be starting fresh in some parts of the property. Attention was paid to color so that there is constant interest on the site. The planters will not be done until the fall. The plan is to get the front looking good first and then move to clean up of the back. Mr. Melso asked that the base of the sign be buffered. No irrigation is currently on the site and that is an issue which will be resolved. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Schumacher, the landscape plan for Ramsey Square was unanimously approved, subject to a walk-through with Mr. Tode and a Shade Tree Commissioner.

	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	X			
Mr. Englishman, Alt. 2	X			

LANDSCAPING PLAN REVIEW

McDonald's, 846 Route 17N, Block 4702, Lot 2

All of the stone needs to be removed and replaced with dark mulch. Mr. Trouf will send a letter regarding the mulch. Mr. Melso spoke with a McDonald's representative who was going to attend the meeting.

503 North Franklin Turnpike

Peter Montalbano was present to discuss the planting which has been done on his property for the past twenty years. White pines were on the original landscape plan. They died, and the stumps were removed by Top Notch with no permit; Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Montalbano planted forsythia because forsythia are hardy, deer-resistant, and salt-tolerant. Arborvitae as suggested by the Commissioners would provide complete privacy year-round. Other plantings were also mentioned during the discussion leading to the decision to plant approximately eighteen six-to-seven-foot Dark American arborvitae, shoulder to shoulder, and commingled juniper and burning bush. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Englishman, the landscape recommendation for 503 North Franklin Turnpike was unanimously approved.

	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	X			
Mr. Englishman, Alt. 2	X			

495 North Franklin Turnpike, Block 3802, Lot 4

Donato D'Angelo, 16 Lantern Lane, was present to finalize the landscape plan for his property. Paul Freschi of Design & Construction, Oakland, provided the landscape drawing. Blue Pacific juniper and five 2 ½ to 3-inch caliper Regal Prince columnar oaks will be planted. All plantings will be mulched, and a sprinkler system will be put in. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Gubala, the landscape plan was unanimously approved as presented.

	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	X			
Mr. Englishman, Alt. 2	X			

Ramsey Lumber, 575 Island Road

In May, James Jaworski was present with updated information about the Ramsey Lumber site. The lumber yard will be re-opening; Newcastle Builders will be leasing the property. The landscape plan on file is from 2009/2010. There is a lot of dead material which will need to be removed. Mr. Latincsics of Conklin Associates will be developing the new landscape plan. Mr. Beltramini and Mr. Martone will walk the property.

50 South Franklin Turnpike

A letter had been sent since trees were removed and some landscaping is being done. At the May meeting, John Angamarca of Woodland Trees, reported that French drains are being installed first and then the landscaping will be done. He noted that there is not a lot of room for plantings. He had a plant list which needed to be modified and then submitted along with a new landscape plan. There is irrigation on the site which will need to be salvaged. He was not in attendance at the June meeting.

TD Bank, 1100 Lake Street

The name of the property manager is needed since the property is not looking good.

125 Lakeside Drive/Ramsey Country Club

Richard Reimer, the property owner at 125 Lakeside Drive, was present with drawings from Pete Proulx Landscaping, Inc., Tuxedo Park, New York. He reviewed the issues which he has with the Ramsey Country Club. There was no representation from the Country Club. It was nine years ago, he estimated, that the Board of Adjustment had determined that the Shade Tree Commission should make the final decision about the screening buffer between the properties, the Reimer property at 125 Lakeside Drive and the maintenance area of the Ramsey Country Club. The landscaping plan includes three dogwoods, six Green Giant arborvitae, and seven Norway spruce. He will maintain the plantings. The Country Club should supply the irrigation. A letter will be sent to the Country Club about their attendance at the July meeting.

Columbia Bank, 161 East Main Street, Block 4811, Lot 14

Michael Dipple of Land Design LLC, 60 Grand Avenue, Englewood, presented the landscape plan for the site which had been a Wells Fargo Bank. All but three of the arborvitae on the site look good; only one will be planted to fill in the gap. One bush in the front of the building is not healthy. There will be minimal removals. He delineated the plantings which were selected to make the site look prettier including boxwood, spirea, hollies, catmint, and ornamental grasses. The location of a replacement sign will stay the same. Columbia Bank will be responsible for the maintenance. There is no plan for irrigation. Mr. Trouf will measure to determine if the ash trees on the property are borough trees. Upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Schumacher, the landscape plan was approved with five affirmative votes and one negative vote.

	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	X			
Mr. Englishman, Alt. 2	X			

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 about what to do with the stumps. The Commissioners were reminded to keep up with their residential inspections since everything is currently up to date.

Work order #4---

97 Orchard Place and Woodlands buffer-A large dead oak will be removed.

32 Martis Avenue-One dead spruce and one dogwood will be removed. Two white pines and one maple will be elevated and pruned. Across the street the marked tree should be removed; leave the stump. Branches that overhang from a resident's tree should be elevated.

346 Elizabeth Avenue-Bark trace one oak which was hit by lightning.

261 and 338 Elizabeth Avenue-Storm-damaged limbs should be removed.

15 Cobblestone Lane-The tree in question should be removed.

90 Grove Street-The dead tree next to the driveway should be removed; leave the stump.

108 Broad Street-Two maples should be elevated; dead wood should be removed.

7 and 11 Knollwood Drive-The trees in question should be elevated.

100 Jean Street-The dead tree to be removed is back approximately 30' on the Blauvelt Avenue right-of-way; leave the stump. The back tall branches reaching over the driveway towards the house should be removed.

28 Forest Avenue-The tree is marked for elevation and branch removal as a special request from the resident for symmetry.

110 Main Street-There is a dead branch hanging over the street.

4 Grove Street-The dead tree is marked; grind the stump.

458 Elbert Street-The dead tree is marked; grind the stump.

450 Elbert Street-The tree should be trimmed and elevated.

99 Ronald Court-Two trees are marked for removal of dead limbs and elevation.

Work order #5---

12 Cleveland Street (corner of New Street)-One dead small borough tree should be removed, replaced by a Kousa dogwood.

34 Darlington Avenue-The maple in the right-of-way needs to be pruned, especially the branches going towards the house.

63 Manor Drive-One pin oak should be elevated as marked with a red dash.

46 Joshua Drive-Two trees are marked for dead wood removal.

5 Amanda Court-The dead wood should be trimmed out.

74 Arlena Terrace-The dead tree should be removed.

45 Hart Street-Dead wood should be trimmed.

COMMERCIAL SITE INSPECTIONS

Mr. Melso looked at 70 Hilltop Road. The dead junipers need to be removed. Mr. Beltramini will contact Mr. Murphy, the manager of the property.

OLD BUSINESS-None

NEW BUSINESS

The trees on New England Drive need to be elevated. The dead wood on the entire street will be removed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Lorraine Gardenier, 21 Lakeview Terrace, was present to discuss the two pin oaks on her property which she would like removed. Because of those trees and their roots, she has needed to replace her railroad tie wall with concrete blocks and replace her driveway three times. The latest cost estimate for the driveway is \$4,500. The borough arborist will be asked to make a site visit.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Martone, seconded by Mr. Schumacher, and carried unanimously.