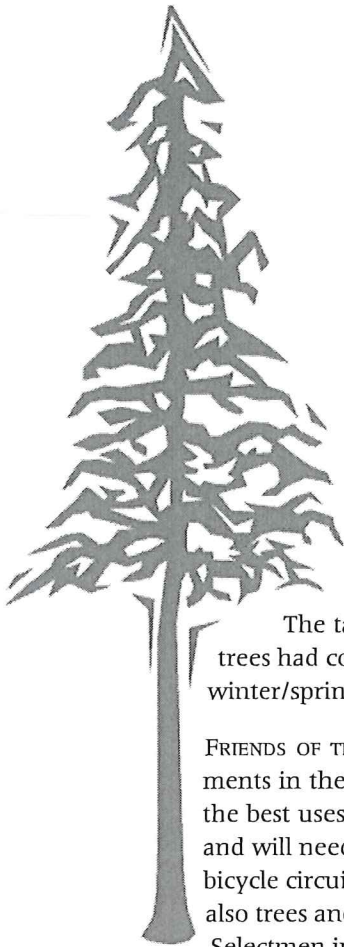


2017 NOV -8 AM 8:28

Minutes of The Shade Tree Committee 2 October 2017



The meeting was called to order at 16:30 by Chair Lucia Gates, and attended by, in alphabetical order: Mike Chesson, Nancy Forbes, Laura Simmons, DeNee Reiton Skipper and guests Donna Ruvallo and Deb Lockett of the Friends of the Grove Street Park.

TREE WARDEN'S REPORT: Tom could not be at this meeting, but would be happy to meet with Donna and Deb at another time if they wish to do so.

The tar spots on the tree leaves are a fungus that has occurred late in the season, happily, after the trees had completed their growing season. These spots are not a worry for now, but may become so if the winter/spring season is harsh. So far it is just a cosmetic problem.

FRIENDS OF THE GROVE STREET PARK: Donna Ruvallo and Deb Lockett presented ideas for design improvements in the park and around the park. They have met frequently with other townspeople to determine the best uses of the park; it must also be ADA compliant. Over the years, many large trees have been lost and will need to be replaced. An Intergenerational Walking Path is proposed, which includes an additional bicycle circuit for teaching small children to ride a bicycle. The basic design includes not only the path, but also trees and benches along it. The Friends need a letter of support from the Shade Tree Committee to the Selectmen in order to go before the Town Meeting in the Spring of 2018 to request funds from the CPA to implement the landscaping plans. These plans will need to be finalized before then; construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2019.

The path of the path itself needs to be determined and Ann Marie Lambert was suggested as a very knowledgeable resource regarding permeable pavement and other issues regarding paths. An example: pavers and crushed gravel will not meet ADA standards. Additionally, the path will also be available for use as a spectating area for the various games held in the park, such as baseball or soccer.

VENERABLE AND INTERESTING TREE LIST: The word "Venerable" was discussed as the title. "Noteworthy" and "Notable" Trees were also proposed. A few corrections to the list format were agreed on and a revised list will forthcoming. It will be published in the Belmont Citizen-Herald.

MEMBERSHIP LIST: Two of our number resigned earlier in the year and we would like to replace them. Members of other committees in town may also be interested in The Shade Tree Committee, and various methods of contacting these people were discussed. All members must be informed about the Open Meeting Laws and a final date will be posted by the town for this informational session. Previous members will be contacted to see if they still wish to receive the minutes of our meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 17:35. The next meeting is 6 November 2017.

Minutes respectfully submitted
by DeNee Reiton Skipper

Minutes approved,

Lucia Gates