

Minutes of The Shade Tree Committee 7 January 2019

2019 FEB 14 AM 9:04

The meeting was called to order at 16:30 by Chair Lucia Gates, and attended by, in alphabetical order: Rachel Berger, Mike Chesson, Julia Corbett, Caroline Hurwitch, Laura Simmons, and Tree Warden Tom Walsh.

The minutes of 19 November 2018 were amended to read: "NEW PROPOSAL: Julia said that Arlington has a Tree Committee, which oversees the removal of public trees and replacement of trees to maintain the canopy." The amended minutes for 19 November 2018 were then approved.

MCLEAN PROPERTY TREE WALK: Discussion of walk in spring 2019.

ALEXANDER UNDERPASS PROJECT PARK: Status unchanged, still on hold. Discussion of right of way along tracks for path. To be left on agenda.

CLAYPIT POND PATHWAY: Status unchanged, still on hold.

TOWN FIELD: Chair Courtney Eldridge has been invited to come to a future meeting.

TREE WARDEN'S REPORT: Three large oaks on Myrtle Street have been removed. Two had major damage inside; one was leaning toward a house. Some old trees in front of the Lion's Club had to come down. A generous donor wants to donate a tree for his father, a veteran. A copper beech has been suggested.

NEW TREE SUGGESTIONS FOR 2019. Question: how does Tom choose new trees? He makes a list every spring in April or May for the following year, based on his experience of what kinds of trees have done well after planting, and talks with a salesman. He's picked several varieties of elms and oaks; along with red maple, American linden, katsura, hackberry, ginkgo, and American hornbeam. Item to be left on agenda for February-March.

ARBOR DAY TREES: Need ideas or suggestions for using second graders, who are not as strong as last year's fourth graders.

NOTEWORTHY TREE LIST ON TOWN WEBSITE: General discussion.

ARLINGTON BY-LAW FOR PRIVATE PROPERTY TREE SETBACKS: Discussion of Arlington, Brookline, and Newton laws, and stance of tree wardens. Proposed bylaw not approved by Belmont selectmen in 2011.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ON GAS LEAKS: The chair discussed an item in the *Citizen-Herald*. She talked to the reporter and referred her to Tom Walsh. Chair said it's a complex subject, and a political question.

The meeting adjourned at 17:40. The next meeting is 4 February 2019.

Draft of Minutes respectfully submitted by Mike Chesson
Minutes approved

Lucia Gates