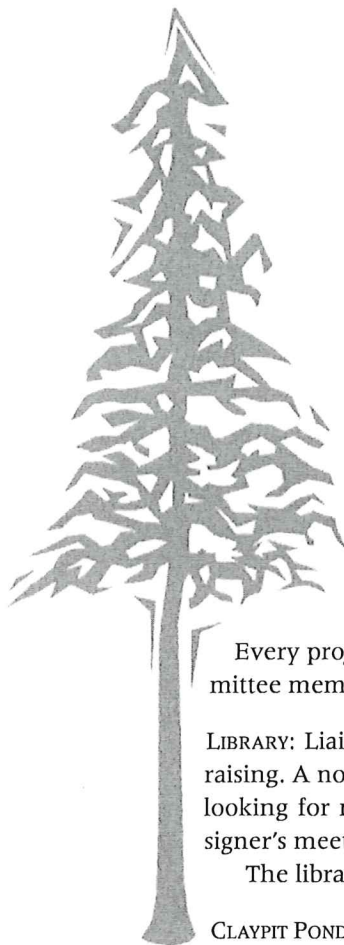


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Minutes of
The Shade Tree
Committee
20 May 2019



The meeting was called to order at 16:45 by Chair Lucia Gates, and attended by, in alphabetical order: Rachel Berger, Mike Chesson, Julia Corbett, Nancy Forbes, Jennifer Parker, DeNee Reiton Skipper and Tom Walsh.

The minutes of 22 April 2019 were approved.

An article written by Lucia for the *Citizen's Forum* was noted and appreciated by all.

Every project in town that will have trees or an impact on trees will be followed by a Shade Tree Committee member/liaison. Lucia will update a spread sheet for these. The projects are as follows:

LIBRARY: Liaison/Lucia. The library held an Open House over the weekend and they have started fundraising. A non-profit organization was created to ensure that all donations will be tax deductible; they are looking for major donors to fund this new library project. Lucia has been invited to the landscape designer's meetings to see the proposals for the library. Specific trees were discussed.

The library grounds and garden project clean-up proceeded apace.

CLAYPIT POND PATH: Liaison/Lucia and Nancy. The timeline for the High School and Veteran's area projects, already underway, will be determined this summer. Much of the path around the pond needs drainage improvement, but we will not have more information until the late summer or fall.

GROVE STREET PLAYGROUND: Liaison/Rachel. Donna Ruvolo was invited to this meeting, but was unable to come. She will be invited again.

TOWN FIELD: Town Meeting voted \$70,000 in CPA money to fund the playground restoration and court rehabilitation. More trees are also proposed to be planted. At Waverley and Beech Street there are three White Ash Trees that are in decline and will be removed.

GRADE 7-12 SCHOOL PROJECT: This will impact the Claypit Pond Path as well. Plans for this are already in existence.

PEQUOSSETTE PARK: The park and playground equipment is completed and planting is done.

LINEAR PARK AT ALEXANDER UNDERPASS, PHASE 1A: Liaison/Julia. Town Meeting voted to pay for the design and the state will pay for construction. This is the first piece of the Community Path project for Belmont.

COMMUNITY PATH, BRIGHTON STREET TO CLARK STREET BRIDGE, PHASE 1B: The path is scheduled to proceed to the New York border. Belmont is to pay \$1million for design and the state is to pay for construction. The Channing Road abutters of about 80 homes are promised tree coverage for privacy screening issues around the 20 foot area easement involved. The home owners do not own this easement, but many have utilized this area as their own.

PAYSON PARK BANDSTAND: Town Meeting denied funds for the project.

POLICE STATION: Liaison/Mike. Another liaison for this project is Mike Smith of the Belmont Historical Society. The sole abutter to the station has been promised tree and privacy screening from it. The driveway will change position and American Elms are to be planted to match the Elms across the street on the Town Hall grounds.

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Minutes of The Shade Tree Committee

continued

ROCK MEADOW: The invasives there are scheduled to be removed and the Town Meeting has voted to fund it.

TREE WARDEN' REPORT: 117 trees were planted this spring, but 125 were ordered and the remainder were not sent. The damp spring has been good for the newly-planted trees. However, some people were upset by the tree planting in their area, and we may have to change the procedure in future to ensure that people who want trees will have them, and those who do not, will not. The Department of Public Works now has the backlog of large trees that are expensive to remove, about 30 to 40 of them. They need to come down and are causing budgeting problems. Additionally, OSHA regulations have caused delays in the tree removal procedures, which make the work safer, albeit slower.

MCLEAN TREE WALK: Scheduled for Saturday, June 8 at 10AM. The meeting place is the Lone Tree parking lot off Mill Street.

The meeting adjourned at 17:20. The next meeting is planned in September 2019.

Minutes respectfully submitted by DeNee Reiton Skipper
Minutes approved,

Lucia Gates