RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA
DATE: October 25, 2021
TIME: 9:04 AM

Minutes of

The Shade Tree Committee

17 May 2021

The ZOOM meeting was called to order at 16:33 by Chair Lucia Gates, and attended by, in alphabetical order: Mike Chesson, Eva Hoffman, Jennifer Parker, DeNee Reiton Skipper and Tom Walsh. Guests attending are: Molly Aalyson, Shawn Baker and Carolyn Bishop.

The February and March minutes were approved.

Tree Warden's Report: Arbor Day trees of two Red Oaks were planted at the Wellington School site. The were donated by Emily Peterson's *GoFundMe* Web site. The other trees along Orchard Street have also been planted. Emily is organizing the neighbors to water them.

In other business, Asplundh is currently working for the Light Department because the tree budget is now nonexistent. Lucia has pursued Patrice Garvin about the tree budget for next year, but as of now, no contact has been made. If necessary, Lucia will address it at Town Meeting to insert a tree budget for the coming year. It is possible that it is already included, but we don't know that at this time.

The committee wishes to be part of the Tree Warden hiring process and so far Lucia has heard nothing about it. A Tree Warden and a tree budget is needed right away.

Claypit Pond: The eight trees planted there are doing well. An article in the *Citizen's Forum* claimed that 80 trees were removed without the approval of the Conservation Committee for a wetland area. Neither was the Garden Club nor the Shade Tree Committee notified.

Police Station: Three Elms are doing well, but they will need water. Today a pink dogwood was planted and both it, and the Elms were watered. The watering responsibility falls to the landscaping company for one growing season. Mike will follow up with Mike Smith about that responsibility after that season is over.

CPA Grant: A proposal for writing a grant to plant trees in the old cemetery was brought forth. The cemetery would qualify under the open space act or as an historical area. There are four categories for CPA applications. Lucia wishes to walk the area before considering a proposal for the CPA. At that time, she would also notice any trees in need of pruning or other attention. Then, we would consult The Cemetery Commission for approval. A bit of tree work was done in the cemetery by an arborist who cared for the old trees down the center of the area on the Arbor Walk. Another part of the area is flat and does not have a lot of trees, but it may be in Cambridge, in which lies four and one-half acres, and they would have to be consulted.

Benton Library: Any planting there is on hold until the sidewalk is installed. The berm area does not look very large.

Grove Street Playground: The planning group for this park needs to be contacted to confirm the watering plan there.

Community Path: No proposal exists as yet. The Community Development should involve us, but we will check.

Town Website: It is difficult to use and our membership listing is for twelve members, which is no longer correct. The Select Board reduced that number to seven. We will investigate the discrepancy in the information. We do not wish to have people apply for nonexistent positions.

The meeting adjourned at 17:34. The next meeting is planned for 21 June 2021.

Minutes respectfully submitted by DeNee Reiton Skipper
Minutes approved,

Lucia Gates