

DATE: January 31, 2022
TIME: 9:13 AM



**Minutes of
The Shade Tree
Committee
13 December 2021**

The ZOOM meeting was called to order at 16:35 by Chair Lucia Gates, and attended by, in alphabetical order: Mike Chesson, Eva Hoffman, Jay Marcotte [Director of DPW], Mike Santoro [Assistant Director of DPW] and DeNee Reiton Skipper. Guests in attendance: Adam Howe, Phil Thayer, Roger Wrubel and Lein Tung.

JAY MARCOTTE'S REPORT: Five or six Ornamental Cherry Trees were removed at the Chenery for placement of the solar apparatus. Come spring, shrubbery is proposed as a replacement for the trees. It is felt that shrubbery will not be able to be easily climbed by the students, and low growing trees would be a problem for that reason. It is about nine- to ten-and-one-half feet to the soffits and that is a maximum growth limitation to avoid the trees shading the solar array. Overall, the environment is not favorable for trees as the students play in that area. During the winter break, the stumps can be ground down and the site prepared while the students are away. Various other plantings were discussed and will continue to be during the next meeting. The site is in full sun and watering will be necessary. It is unknown if the School facility will be responsible for funding the preparation at the site and the new plant material.

Our new tree contact is the Wagon Wheel nurseries and we hope they can not only source the trees, but advise us as well.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: We would like to hire a new Tree Warden, but Watertown is also seeking a new Tree Warden and at a higher salary than we are proposing. Our overall allowance for trees was increased this year, but we have spent 75% of it already. Jay hopes to put in a capital request for \$60,000 for a tree inventory to be made in the next fiscal year.

BELMONT CEMETERY PRESERVATION MASTERPLAN WITH TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: The CPC application for the cemetery was approved. It will go to Town Meeting for final funding approval.

HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT: Bill Lovallo will update us in the January meeting of the tree plans for the area.

TREE GIFTS: Several gifts are in the works.

Andrew Airoidi will be willing to help out in this matter.

The Girl Scouts will plant one tree at Pequossette Park.

Emily Peterson will create a *GoFundMe* site.

Emily Walsh is working on the Mark Clark Memorial Tree.

A Jeffrey Wheeler bench was installed and we will have a tree next to it for a memorial tree. The bench is near the Richard Betts memorial tree and right outside Jeffrey's old office. The family has expressed an interest in a Dogwood tree, but they are subject to anthracnose. The Kusa Dogwood, however, is not susceptible to this problem.

The meeting ended at 17:20. The next meeting is planned for 24 January 2022.

Minutes respectfully submitted by DeNee Reiton Skipper
Minutes approved,

Lucia Gates