

DATE: March 21, 2022
TIME: 10:01 AM



**Minutes of
The Shade Tree
Committee
24 January 2022**

The ZOOM meeting was called to order at 16:32 by Chair Lucia Gates, and attended by, in alphabetical order: Mike Chesson, Eva Hoffman, Katya Gajdos, Jay Marcotte [Director of DPW], Jennifer Parker, Mike Santoro [Assistant Director of DPW] and DeNee Reiton Skipper. Guests in attendance: Molly Aalyson, Sheila Flewelling, Adam Howe and Emily Peterson. The minutes of 13 December and 20 December 2021 were approved.

JAY MARCOTTE'S REPORT: It was a slow month during the winter, however some things are happening. The Town Hall campus has come under consideration. There are tree hearings scheduled for trees on Louise Road and Myrtle Road. Wagon Wheel was consulted and they identified seventeen potential locations for planting trees. Jay and Mike are to meet with the Girl Scout Troop lead by Lien Tung in the coming month. The troop will plant one tree at Pequossette Park in the Spring. When we know the date, we might want to attend the ceremony. Jay said he would ask the girls how to purchase their cookies to help raise funds for the tree.

CHENERY SCHOOL: The location where the trees were removed for the solar apparatus will need some new plantings. Lucia distributed a list of native plantings and discussion ensued. She also noted that viburnum has a beetle infestation problem in some of its variants.

TOWN HALL CAMPUS: A magnolia tree was lost, and a cedar tree is failing and will need to be removed. There are also other plantings in the area that may need attention. Money will be a problem. Lucia will contact the Garden Club about the campus as they usually have suggestions for the various projects around town.

Emily proposed that a permanent Holiday Tree to be planted in the Town Center rather than cutting a tree every year for decoration. Such a tree would have to be fairly large and slow growing. Lucia will contact Michael Callahan of the Belmont Lyons Club as they donate the holiday tree every year.

The Jeffrey Wheeler Tree will also be part of the Town Campus. His family wishes to plant a Dogwood tree.

BELMONT CEMETERY PRESERVATION MASTERPLAN: The CPC application for the cemetery was approved. It will move to the Warrant Committee and will go to Town Meeting for final funding approval.

HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT: Bill Lovallo said the tree plans for the area are not final and the trees will be planted in 2023. He will attend our meeting in March with the plans.

MISCELLANEOUS: The Rules and Regulations for tree removal were requested by Lucia. She has three versions of them, and Jay will get back to her about this. Jennifer Parker is resigning because she is moving to Concord. Jay mentioned that Concord has a budget of \$800,000 and seven dedicated tree employees; whereas Belmont has a budget of \$300,000 and zero dedicated tree employees.

CLAIREMONT STREET AND BAY STATE ROAD: Both streets had trees removed that caused neighbors to strenuously object. We will notify the neighbors in future of any large tree removals.

Sheila Flewelling thanked Mike Santoro for the removal of a tree at Sycamore and White Streets when the sidewalk was repaired. She wishes a replacement tree in that location and Jay will place the request in the queue for next year. The meeting ended at 17:10. The next meeting is planned for 14 February 2022.

Minutes respectfully submitted by DeNee Reiton Skipper
Minutes approved,

Lucia Gates