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**Minutes of
The Shade Tree
Committee
14 March 2022**

THE ZOOM MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 16:40 by Chair Lucia Gates and attended by, in alphabetical order: Michael Chesson, Eva Hoffman, Jay Marcotte [Director of DPW], Mike Santoro [Assistant Director of DPW], Laura Simmons, and DeNee Skipper. Guests in attendance: Molly Aalyson, Adam Howe, Emily Peterson, and Lein Tung.

JAY MARCOTTE'S REPORT: Wagon Wheel is going to provide recommendations for this year's tree planting. They looked at Leonard Street to see how best to replace the trees that died on one side. The trees were watered regularly. It was suggested that the trees might have died because of strain before planting, or lack of protection around the base. Jay is negotiating with Wagon Wheel for a one-year warranty on this year's trees. There are over 800 requests for new trees, as well as trimming requests. The town can plant about fifty trees this year, sixty at the most. Mike S. reviewed the sites listed on the agenda for tree planting requests. Jay offered to send the planting plan to the committee. Mike S. said possible trees are Red Maple, London plane, Hackberry, and American Hornbeam. Ten Dogwoods will be planted, including one at Jeffrey Wheeler's bench.

GIRL SCOUT TREE DONATION: Jay met with Lein Tung to chose a location in Pequossette Park. It will be near the playground and an access road near the tennis courts. A weeping willow isn't suitable because there is a sewer line and a culvert. A red maple would be a good fit. The tree will be planted on Arbor Day, which is on 29 April at 4:00 P.M.

COMMEMORATIVE SHADE TREE PROGRAM: Jay will present the proposal to the Select Board on Monday, 21 March. If approved, there will be a streamlined process for donating trees in town. Donations can be accepted year-round and will go to a specific tree fund. Plantings will happen in the fall and spring. The tree warden will work with the donor to choose the location and the tree. The committee submitted a letter of support to the Select Board. It was suggested that the donation form be revised to include the desired planting location. An electronic request form was also suggested. If approved, Jay plans to market the program through sign boards, parent lists, and the town website. Molly offered to promote on Next Door and the Belmont Google group. Emily offered to post on Facebook. Mike C. moved to accept the proposal for the Commemorative Shade Tree Planting Program. Laura seconded. It was approved.

NEW HIGH SCHOOL: The Building Committee is still discussing landscaping. The budget is tight and it's possible that trees could be eliminated from the project. Bill Lovallo from the committee will come to our April meeting. Our committee will consider writing a letter of support asking that trees be included.

TOWN TREE REGULATIONS: Our committee would like to review the existing tree regulations. Lucia and Laura will look through their records. Jay offered to share DCR's guide to local tree bylaws.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: Some projects reviewed by the Zoning Board require a landscaping plan. Lucia clarified that the Shade Tree Committee has not reviewed or approved those plans in the past. Jay recommended that the Tree Warden and/or the Shade Tree Committee should weigh in.

CHENERY SCHOOL: A replacement for the Crabapples has not yet been identified. Several options were considered: two Dogwoods or a Lilac or a native shrub. Wagon Wheel provided a price list for native shrubs.

TOWN HALL: Different departments will share resources to update and beautify the Town Hall campus. Lucia reported the Garden Club has offered to do a consultation. Jay reported that Arthur Krieger is also willing to consult.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: Three members have officially resigned from the committee: Jennifer Parker, who moved away from Belmont, and Caroline Hurwitch and Katya Gajdos, both of whom resigned for family reasons. The current members are: Mike Chesson, Lucia Gates, Eva Hoffman, Laura Simmons, and DeNee Reiton Skipper. We have received three applications from people seeking to join our committee. They are: Victoria Amalfitano, who has tree arborist experience; Chris Arthur, and Michelle Oishi. Lucia is reviewing the applications.

The Select Board never officially approved the seven membership slots for our committee. They need to approve it via a vote; it is on the Select Board's agenda for March.

The meeting ended at 5:35 pm. The next meeting is planned for April 25, 2022.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Eva Hoffman
Formatted by DeNee Reiton Skipper
Minutes approved,

Lucia Gates