

10.24.2022

## Shade Tree Committee Meeting Minutes for October

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 16:30 pm by Chair Eva Hoffman and attended by: Jay Marcotte (Director of DPW and Acting Tree Warden), Mike Santoro (Assistant Director of DPW and Acting Tree Warden), Lucia Gates, Eva Hoffman, Chris Arthur, Vicki Amalfitano, Michael Chesson, DeNee Reiton Skipper, Molly Aalyson and Adam Howe.

There were 4 members attending so there was a quorum for the meeting.

The **September** Minutes were approved as amended.

Tree Warden report.

- Mike Santoro mentioned that The Commemorative Tree Program is finished for the season and has already had two requests for the spring.
- He also mentioned that tree trimmings and removals have continued, funded by a 100K grant for maintenance from DCR. No new trees are included in this as its specifically for maintenance.
- Jay Marcotte mentioned that the Inventory Project will begin tomorrow morning. The project will be in GIS and some part of it will be available to the public. Eva mentioned that the info from the proposal will help us locate areas without street trees.
- Jay also mentioned that 15 trees would need to be replaced in the Spring.
- He will invite Glenn Clancy to November's meeting where, at 5 pm, Matthew Shuman will speak on Watertown's "Green Initiative."
- He mentioned that he will request a yearly addition from the Capital Committee for street trees. This year's amount was 25K.

Shade Tree Agenda Items:

- Tree Regulations: Lucia has volunteered to head this subcommittee. Martha Moore sent some interesting ideas from her work in Orleans.
- Tree List to be added to next month's agenda. Vicki Amalfitano mentioned that it should include native species. Some of the neighboring Towns have a preferred tree list, and so do major electric companies.

- Watertown Tree Planting Brochure: Helpful information. Includes being able to remove asphalt to create a planting strip. Lucia mentioned creating something similar for Belmont and sending it out via a bill so everyone gets it.

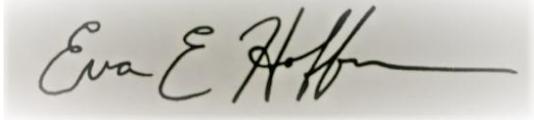
The Committee discussed the following ongoing projects:

- Cemetery: 1 bid that will be accepted tomorrow.
- The Library: no review since no planting plan yet. On the Nov ballot.
- Clay Pit Pond: There are some dead trees, the extent will be unknown until next spring.
- HS Building: Although the Building Committee Chair mentioned that some trees would be planted this Fall, it looks like all trees will be planted Spring 2023.
- Town Field: Construction has not begun.
- Alexander underpass: No plans yet.
- Community Path: Out to bid.
- Cottage Street Project:
- The Belmont Hill School: Lucia was going to write a letter but after attending the meeting, she does not think there are issues here. She mentioned that they worked with an arborist, their plan was comprehensive and they are planning on putting in many large caliper trees to replace those lost during construction. The area is also all on private property and they are allowed to remove the trees without the Town of Belmont's permission.

The meeting ended at 17:28 and the next meeting will be on November 14th, 2022 at 16:30.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Chris Arthur.

Approved by Eva Hoffman, the Chair  
Her electronic signature as required:

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature reads "Eva E Hoffman" in a cursive script.