



12.12.2022

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TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: March 21, 2023
TIME: 10:15 AM

Shade Tree Committee Meeting Minutes for December

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, the co-chair, Eva Hoffman, the co-chair, Chris Arthur, Michael Chesson, DeNee Reiton Skipper, Vicki Amalfitano, Laura Simmons and Molly Aalyson.

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

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

Meetings going forward.

- In person or Zoom. State allowance only last until March 2023. All meetings after March must be in person. Meet in Town Hall meeting room. Open meeting laws will have to be changed to allow online meetings. TM in January to discuss.
- Hybrid meeting allowed as long as a quorum are meeting in person. Allows Belmont residents to zoom in.
- Jay and Mike stay late on Mondays. May require changing to a later time, like 5:00/ 6:00 to 7 pm. They're available to meet later.
- Motions: The committee approved a motion to continue meeting virtually for as long as allowed by the state. The committee approved a motion to change the meeting time to 5 pm regardless of Zoom or in-person.

Tree Warden report.

- No planting at this time. No changes. Cleaning up field work through January.
- Scanned the 1983 Tree list to cross reference for the Inventory Project.
- Tree Health- will have to wait until Spring to see what has survived last years very dry summer. Wagon Wheel will review and replace as required.
- Lots of changes at Public Works, which is taking over Town Engineering, Pavement Management and Stormwater issues.

Reflect on Presentation by Watertown:

- Rich discussion. Focus ideas starting in January.
- DeNee thought some of the practices of creating bioswales and giant trenches to support trees were overengineered.

- Jay mentioned that they don't have the budget, and that most communities have storm water coordinators who manage permits, but this falls on Mike and Jay.
- Lucia wants to find out about financing some storm water/ tree planting projects in the 24/25 budget. She also mentioned that some of the practices shown will be part of the library project.
- Vicki Amalfitano mentioned that the focus should be on educating the public on issues as a 1st step. Perhaps the Shade Tree Committee can partner with other committees like Sustainable Belmont and the Garden Club.
- Find other funding sources for trees, plantings.
- Jay mentioned that in other Towns and Cities, people can "adopt" a tree, watering it during dry spells. Molly A mentioned that she will find out more about adopting tree programs.
- Jay mentioned that watering bags help trees survive and that private citizens are asked to fill bags for nearby trees recently planted.

Tree List

- Shade Tree Committee would like to create a tree list for the Town focusing on native trees.
- Native Planting list should include the true native, rather than a cultivar or hybrid.
- Request or demand natives as a percentage of total trees planted.
- Not more than 15 of any one species each year to create diversity.
- Shade Tree committee will review all of the pdfs from other Towns/ Cities tree guides previously sent by Chris A.

Projects List:

- Library: General Meeting. Shade Tree, Garden Club and Friends of the Library to collaborate. Eva and Lucia to reach out.
- Claypit pond: No plantings this year.
- Town Field: Underway. Plantings in the Spring. Open June 30, 2023. Jay to report on trees to be planted.
- 7-12 School: Planting in Spring.
- Alexander Underpass: No movement.
- Community Path: No movement.
- Wellington Easement: Set to touch up work.
- McCleans: New Hearing.
- Payson Park: Final Design will go to bid.

- Belmont Hill School: Still under review with the Planning Board.

The meeting ended at 17:30 and the next meeting will be on January 23rd, 2023 at 17:00.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Chris Arthur.

Approved by Eva Hoffman, the Co-Chair
Her electronic signature as required:
(crossed out until these have been approved)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eva E. Hoffman", is displayed on a light gray rectangular background.