



Minutes of

**The Shade Tree
Committee**

21 October 2019

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The meeting was called to order at 16:37 by Chair Lucia Gates, and attended by, in alphabetical order: Rachel Berger, Mike Chesson, Jennifer Parker, DeNee Reiton Skipper and Tom Walsh. Two new members, Kayta Gajdos, and Eva Hoffman were welcomed to the group. Both old and new members introduced themselves and expressed their interest in trees.

The minutes of 20 May 2019 were approved with a minor correction.

Lucia announced that she would like to step down from the chairmanship in the future.

TREE WARDEN REPORT: In the last storm about 15 to 18 trees were lost, plus numerous broken branches that had to be taken care of as well as pruning the tree where the wound occurred.

Tom then explained for the new members the distinction between trees on town property and trees on private property, which is not always as obvious as it would seem; his jurisdiction has its limitations. The Tree Warden concept was established in 1913 to avoid permitting towns to cut down trees without any oversight. Be it for widening roads for cars and trucks, or creating or repairing sidewalks or other conflicts involving trees, there must now be a hearing about the removal of a healthy tree.

After the hurricane of 1938, many trees were lost and many planted to replace those lost. Those trees are aging now and are quite large and many do upheave and crack the sidewalks. Otherwise, Belmont's tree population is fairly stable at this time. It was noted that the trees by the cinema have been pruned in an inelegant manner. It unknown by whom.

PROJECT REPORTS:

LIBRARY: Liaison/Lucia. The library has hired a landscape architect and Lucia saw the plans, which were reportedly lovely. The public/private funding is ongoing, but the time window is currently anywhere from two to twenty years.

CLAYPIT POND PATH: Liaison/Lucia and Nancy. Some trees were pruned to allow the Veteran's Memorial to be better seen by the public from the street. Other trees are slated to be removed and Lucia will meet with Mary Trudeau to determine which trees they are and where new trees are to be planted.

GRADE 7-12 SCHOOL PROJECT: This will impact the Claypit Pond Path as well. Plans for this are already in existence.

GROVE STREET PLAYGROUND: Liaison/Rachel. Nothing new to report.

LINEAR PARK AT ALEXANDER UNDERPASS, PHASE 1A: Liaison/Julia. Some work has started, but it is difficult to distinguish it from the ongoing work at the high school. This park is now a state project because it will extend the Community Path project, which involves several communities.

POLICE STATION: Liaison/Mike. The façade will have historical designation, and the modernization of the station will occur behind the building.

PAYSON PARK BANDSTAND: Pending.

COMMUNITY PATH, BRIGHTON STREET TO CLARK STREET BRIDGE, PHASE 1B: The path currently ends at Brighton Street. The trail is to cross Clark Street and Waverley Oaks. Phase 1B has been awarded funds by the Community Preservation Act for the design plans for the project. The state will build it. It is too early in the planning to consider landscaping and trees.

The meeting adjourned at 17:34. The next meeting is planned for 4 November 2019.

Minutes respectfully submitted by DeNee Reiton Skipper
Minutes approved,

Lucia Gates