



Minutes of

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TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

The Shade Tree Committee

13 January 2020

AM 10:09

The meeting was called to order at 16:35 by Chair Lucia Gates, and attended by, in alphabetical order: Rachel Berger, Mike Chesson, Katya Gajdos, Eva Hoffman, DeNee Reiton Skipper and Tom Walsh.

The minutes of 9 December 2019 were approved.

Eva asked about the procedures for requesting a new tree to be planted and what exactly determines its location on the site. Tom explained the current procedure and the need to consult with DigSafe before planting. He is also to meet with Jay Marcotte where this will be revisited.

TREE WARDEN'S REPORT: Thus far, the winter has been quiet and tree work is proceeding apace. Tom is surveying the numbers of Ash Trees around town and trying to ascertain how many would need injection against the Emerald Ash Borer. Some are town trees and some are private. He may contact homeowners who have Ash trees and inform them about injecting their trees and providing a list of tree services who perform the injections. Some money had been provided from the State House of Representatives (our representative is David Rogers) for tree removal and for Emerald Ash Borer issues.

A wasp was introduced to prey on the Winter Moth larvae, and it seems to be reducing the numbers of the moths. The wasp lays its eggs on leaves that the moth caterpillars eat and when the egg hatches, it uses the caterpillar host as a food source thereby killing the caterpillar.

ARBOR DAY: Some trees at the Chenery School are suffering and it would, therefore, be a good location for planting new trees. Certain trees there have clearly expired and will need to be replaced, whether it is on Arbor Day or any other day. Various locations were discussed for the Arbor Day planting.

THE PROJECT LIST: This list was reviewed and taken in order:

TOWN FIELD: There is no progress as yet.

ALEXANDER UNDERPASS: The route is not finalized, so it is on hold.

CLAYPIT POND PATHWAY: The Arboretum between Clay Pit Pond and Concord Road will be considered by the Garden Club for future plantings and Lucia will liaise with them on this and emphasized that good signage identifying the trees is important to the project.

LINEAR PARK: This area is being utilized by the school construction as a work and storage area.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TOWN YARD: This is nearing completion of the first phase.

CUSHING SQUARE: A row of River Birches has been planted in the back alley off Williston Road. There are to be other walkways and pocket parks among these buildings.

The meeting adjourned at 17:35. The next meeting is planned for 10 February 2020.

Minutes respectfully submitted by DeNee Reiton Skipper
Minutes approved,

Lucia Gates