

Minutes of
The Shade Tree
Committee
9 March 2020

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BELMONT, MA

DATE: December 18, 2020
TIME: 8:36 AM



The meeting was called to order at 16:35 by Acting Chair Mike Chesson, and attended by, in alphabetical order: Eva Hoffman, DeNee Reiton Skipper and Tom Walsh. Guests attending were Andrew Airoidi, Anne Marie Mahoney and Dee and Erich Ippen.

CLAYPIT POND AND THE RUTH IPPEN TREE WALK: The Garden Club is providing funding to plant seven new trees on the path and thus far five have been chosen; Eastern Redbud, Paperbark Maple, Yellowwood, Japanese Snowbell and Blue Atlas Cedar. Andrew has already sourced the trees with a 3 or 3½ inch caliper trunks. Larger trees are more difficult to handle and were not considered. Nursery Services on Route 2 is the provider and some of these trees are already dug. Andrew's focus is with tree care in an environmentally sustainable manner. Recommendations for the other two trees did not last long. Catalpa was mentioned and the Ippens wish to plant a Tupelo tree in addition to the other seven.

NEW 7-12 SCHOOL: Anne Marie mentioned that the school will change the Goden and Concord intersection to include curbing to control the traffic and also to expand the sidewalks which will impact the trees and their root systems along that area. Along this stretch of roadway are some older trees which were memorial trees for World War I veterans; they were summarily removed, leaving many neighbors to wonder what happened and do not want it to be repeated. The plan for the trees is not yet known.

Tom informed the group that Shade Tree law states that a tree over three inch caliper cannot be removed without a hearing. These Norway Maple trees were on Orchard Road and were in bad shape. They were removed during school vacation. No hearing was required on town-owned land such as schools or cemeteries.

The meeting adjourned at 17:10. The next meeting is not yet planned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by DeNee Reiton Skipper
Minutes approved,

Lucia Gates