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DATE: March 24, 2021
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Minutes of

The Shade Tree Committee

14 December 2020

The ZOOM meeting was called to order at 16:30 by Chair Lucia Gates, and attended by, in alphabetical order: Mike Chesson, Eva Hoffman, Laura Matheson Simmons, DeNee Reiton Skipper and Tom Walsh. Guests attending are: Patrice Garvin, Jay Marcotte, Molly Aalyson and Emily Peterson.

Patrice and Jay explained why the Tree Budget was deferred this year as well; because of the virus, the supplier of the trees is not providing them this year. Other projects, such as road work, are also deferred. Lucia asked for extra money in the 2022 budget to make up for the lack of tree planting in 2020 and 2021. Normally, we plant 120 trees a year, but we lose 80 each year as well. The budget is unsettled right now; as is "normal".

Purpose Statement: The Shade Tree Committee will resubmit our Purpose Statement after the first of the year. Lucia read a draft of the charge, which includes membership of non-professional as well as professional arborists. We should be advised of town projects involving trees; tree regulations were also reviewed and it was proposed that this be discussed when the new Tree Warden is hired after Tom's retirement in June. The Shade Tree Committee would like to participate in the hiring process. Lucia will present the proposal to the Select Board.

Laura mentioned the Shade Tree Committee should be funded and that it should be considered a priority in reviewing new building plans in the town. We hope to fund some outside tree projects via the Community Preservation Act.

Patrice and Jay exited the meeting at this point.

The minutes from 9 November 2020 were approved.

Tree Warden's Report: The trees on Glendale Street were to be taken down because they were damaged in a recent wind storm. Other trees in the boulevards should be replaced which would be a good use of CPA funds should they be granted. The removal of storm damaged trees and pruning lost limbs from wind storms continues.

The General Manager of Belmont Light, Craig Spinelli, was contacted by Tom to assist in pruning trees around the electric wires. This maintenance is part of the electric wire maintenance. National Grid may also prune dangerous trees which may interfere with its wires.

Last Spring, Hartney-Greymount pruned the trees at the main library and donated the time of five men and one woman for a day to be spent working on the trees.

The list of projects and liaisons were reviewed; the liaison will not be included in the public posting of this document. Eva, the liaison for the CPA Town Field project, proposed that Cortney Eldridge attend our next meeting. Cortney is the person in charge of this project.

Molly expressed concern about the loss of trees; Emily applied for membership on the Shade Tree Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 17:35. The next meeting is planned for 22 February 2021.

Minutes respectfully submitted by DeNee Reiton Skipper
Minutes approved,

Lucia Gates