



Minutes of
The Shade Tree
Committee
22 March 2021

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DATE: May 20, 2021
TIME: 3:01 PM

The ZOOM meeting was called to order at 16:35 by Chair Lucia Gates, and attended by, in alphabetical order: Mike Chesson, Eva Hoffman, Jennifer Parker, DeNee Reiton Skipper and Tom Walsh. Guests attending are: Molly Aalyson and Cortney Eldridge.

TOWN FIELD: Cortney presented the plans for the Town Field playgrounds and playing courts renovation project. Some trees were taken down and the area is now very hot during the summer season. She is working with Jay Marcotte to purchase new trees and have them ready to plant by late summer. The plans show nine new trees to be planted, but a tenth tree is also possible here. The listing of which trees are to be planted will be forthcoming. Tom stated that about fifty years ago many trees were planted along Waverley Street and they never did very well. He would plant an additional tree along that street if any were leftover after the annual Spring planting of trees around town. Therefore, the trees planted there are random replacements for those that had previously died. Also, a sprinkler system was installed for the soccer fields and its border should be respected to avoid digging it up when planting the new trees. The trees planted should be large enough to branch higher up to discourage children from climbing on them.

The December minutes were approved. The February minutes were discussed because there was some uncertainty about the trees to be planted around the Police Station. After this meeting, in response to questions from the committee, Mike Chesson contacted Mike Smith, on the Police Station Building Committee, about the number and exact placement of American Princeton Elms. Mike Smith replied that there will be three Elms, in front of, and not behind, the complex.

ORCHARD STREET PLANTING: Emily's *GoFundMe* Web site was quite successful and raised over \$4,000 to plant trees on this street. All of that money is not needed for the nine replacement trees consisting of one Hornbeam, two Black Tupelos, three Sugar or Red Maples and three Dogwoods. She has donated money for a tenth tree to be planted there for Arbor Day. She is also interested in donating trees near the pool area in the future. She and Tom will confer about the trees there. The largest practicable size for a tree is 2- or 2½-inch caliper.

ARBOR DAY: 30 April 2021. As stated above, a donation was received to supply a tree for this celebratory day. It will be combined with the Orchard Street trees to be planted, except it will be on the Wellington grounds. The school principal will be contacted to notify the parents of the students via email or letter communication about this new tree. However, there will be neither ceremony nor student participation for this planting, in order to avoid a large crowd of attendees. The Department of Public Works will quietly plant the tree after noting where the other nine are already located. It will be a tenth tree and therefore, not part of the nine tree grouping.

TREE WARDEN'S REPORT: Money is tight and removals are taking priority as deemed necessary. The state gave Belmont \$50,000 for the removal of dangerous trees; not to be used for planting. It was noted that Watertown asks for a \$5 donation from its residents to plant trees. Tom said a separate fund was established long ago by then director, Peter Castinino to facilitate the planting of trees; and there used to be a town budget line item for trees of \$13,000 for planting, but that is no longer the case. Lucia will contact Jay Marcott to see if this fund still exists.

The meeting adjourned at 17:40. The next meeting is planned for 26 April 2021.

Minutes respectfully submitted by DeNee Reiton Skipper
Minutes approved,

Lucia Gates