

RECEIVED
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BELMONT, MA

DATE: October 25, 2021
TIME: 9:04 AM

Shade Tree Committee
Minutes, June 21, 2021

The in-person meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm in conference room 4 of Town Hall. Attendees were Lucia Gates, chair, Mike Chesson, Eva Hoffman, Laura Simmons, Tom Walsh, Tree Warden. Guests were Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator, Jay Marcotte, Director DPW and Mike Santoro, Assistant Director DPW.

The 2021/22 budget was discussed and the amount for planting new trees will be funded to the same extent as the previous budget. Jay promised to get us the exact line item for future budgets.

Tom Walsh will retire July 1st and options for his placement were discussed. The town has explored job sharing with a local town, however per Patrice, they all have full time tree wardens. Hiring local tree arborists was discussed but presents ethical issues of conflict of interest.

The current proposal is that for an interim period Jay and Mike Santoro will split the duties. Jay will take a tree warden certification course (1 day per week for 6 weeks) and will handle public communication, hearings and meetings with the shade Tree Committee. Tom Walsh offered that he will still be available for consultation especially around new tree choices. He recommended that during this interim period the same tree company and tree plans be followed as had been done in previous years. Mike Santoro will supervise the field work of tree removal and tree planting.

Patrice noted that the Select Board will have to approve this. She also noted that the Select Board has expressed interest in the town having a tree removal policy as do other towns. The Shade Tree Committee can look at existing policies and draft a proposal for Jay to review.

Our list of tree projects was briefly reviewed, and Jay was aware of all projects. He stated that as Tree Warden he will have advance notice of these projects which will save time.

There was a brief discussion of the committee reviewing the current Belmont tree regulations. It was agreed we will get any questions or comments to Jay.

We had a general discussion of the committee pursuing a Community Preservation Act (CPA) grant. We will begin with an exploration of the Grove Street cemetery. The preliminary proposal to the CPA is due Oct.1.

The May 21 minutes were approved with the removal of line 8.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm. The next meeting will be in September, 2021.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lucia Gates
Minutes approved

Lucia Gates