



**Minutes of**  
**The Shade Tree**  
**Committee**  
**13 September 2021**

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**TOWN CLERK**  
**BELMONT, MA**

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

The ZOOM meeting was called to order at 16:36 by Chair Lucia Gates, and attended by, in alphabetical order: Mike Chesson, Kayta Gajdos, Eva Hoffman and DeNee Reiton Skipper. Guests attending are: Molly Aalyson, Ellen O'Brien Cushman [Chair of the Cemetery Commission], Jay Marcotte, Mike Santoro and Lein Tung.

Lucia, Michael and Eva walked through the old cemetery at Grove Street. The Belmont Historical Society also held a walking tour of the cemetery, noting the burial locations of prominent Belmont citizens. There are many beautiful trees, but there are also some that were lost or damaged in the various storms. A CPA grant for additional trees was discussed, but maintenance is not under the CPA's purview. However, there is a precedence for this in other cemeteries in MA. Perhaps replacing the chain link fence with a more agreeable one would qualify. Any fence must allow for access of large equipment in the area. Jay wished to know about CPA grants in other communities and Eva will follow up with that information.

Lein Tung, who represents the thirteen girls of nine years of age of the Girl Scout Troop 82027 of Burbank School, said the girls wish to contribute some trees to the town. The Girl Scout organization has a nationwide program for tree planting. They also wish to involve other local Girl Scout troops to increase the size of the project. Lucia states she was a Girl Scout leader in the past and her troop also planted trees. She mentioned other groups in town who have planted trees: Emily Peterson, Andrew Airolti and The Garden Club. Perhaps we need an approval process in place to accept and endorse these donations. The Select Board would have to give approval: first, to a specific location and secondly, to the nature of the trees involved, including maintenance.

Jay and Mike spoke to the condition of the trees in town. The three hurricanes and excessive rainfall has taken its toll on tree work and removal, slowing the process. It is estimated that we are two- to three months behind in trimming trees. The municipal Light Department is also using Asplundh's services and the two departments need to be coordinated. Lucia said she has passed along residents' emails about requests for trees. She also noticed many dead Ginkos on Trapelo Road. Apparently, Ginkos are sensitive trees when planted, but if they survive they later develop a hardiness to the environment. Jay has started his studies to become the Tree Warden, and mentioned that a tree inventory could be implemented in conjunction with Asplundh. Eva asked if a CPA grant would be appropriate for an inventory, and the time frame needed for the grant application. Jay will contact Elizabeth Dionne of the CPA to start the process. The Ash trees at the Butler school were treated for Emerald Ash Borers as were trees at Grove Street Playground.

HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL: Bill Lovallo is heading this project and said they wish to plant five- to six-inch caliper trees in 2023. He will come to a STC meeting with plans for discussion. He wants to coordinate tree plantings with what is already there in the Claypit Pond area, the Alexander Linear Park and the Community Path.

MEMBERSHIP ISSUES: We have eight members, and would like arborists, landscape designers and citizens of Belmont to be part of our group.

The meeting ended abruptly at 17:32. The next meeting is planned for 18 October 2021.

Minutes respectfully submitted by DeNee Reiton Skipper  
Minutes approved,

*Lucia Gates*