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TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA
DATE: November 4, 2021
TIME: 9:22 AM

Minutes of

The Shade Tree Committee

22 February 2021

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, Laura Matheson Simmons and DeNee Reiton Skipper. Guests attending are: Emily Peterson and Carolyn Bishop.

A small correction was noted for the December minutes.

Orchard Street Planting: Emily mentioned that the town was going to replace the trees that were cut down last year, but has now held back because of the pandemic. The neighbors are willing to donate money for replacement trees, which will cost about $300 each. She spoke to arborist, Marc Barrett, about trees to plant and he recommended 3-inch caliper trees and would accompany Emily to select the trees. The specifics of the plan were discussed. For now Emily will set up a *GoFundMe* Web site to raise money for the trees. A CPA grant would take too long as it has to be approved by Town Meeting which may not be in time for ideal Spring planting. The DPW will take delivery of the trees and plant them.

Select Board: The Select Board meeting noted changes in our mission, which were discussed at that time. The biggest issue was maintenance and how it will be implemented. The Select Board was amenable to our mission.

Police Station: Mike Chesson had spoken with Mike Smith who said a dogwood would be planted, and an American Princeton Elm near the railroad tracks. DeNee mentioned that one lone Elm will be an attractive squirrel magnet and will suffer from their ministrations. More Elms, clustered together will spread the damage around to all the trees rather than concentrating on just one tree, possibly killing it in the process.

Project List, Published Version: The list will be updated on the meeting's agenda as part of its public publishing process.

Town Field: Unfortunately Cortney Eldridge was unable to attend this meeting, but will be reinvited to the March one.

Tree Budget: There will be no budget for town trees again this year. We cannot apply for a CPA grant, because this is supposed to be a regular town budget item. Possibly a CPA grant could be applied to plant trees in a public housing area near Thomas Road, as there are few trees there at all. There are other Pocket Parks, which are owned by the town, that could also benefit from the addition of trees. A meeting with Floyd Carmen would be necessary before proceeding with this idea. Lucia will investigate for other possible grants to plant trees around town.

Claypit Pond: Carolyn Bishop mentioned the tree removal at the Pond is in a wetland area and that The Conservation Commission has not asserted itself in that removal. The bank had been planted by the Garden Club and eight new trees were planted there and are doing well. The path around the pond was rebuilt, but still some flooding persists.

The meeting adjourned at 17:34. The next meeting is planned for 22 March 2021.

Minutes respectfully submitted by DeNee Reiton Skipper
Minutes approved,

Lucia Gates