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

Minutes of

The Shade Tree Committee

4 November 2019

The meeting was called to order at 16:32 by Chair Lucia Gates, and attended by, in alphabetical order: Mike Chesson, Julia Corbett, Laura Simmons, DeNee Reiton Skipper and Tom Walsh.

The minutes of 21 October 2019 were approved.

The Town of Belmont has a server with the agenda and minutes of the previous meetings posted. And the minutes are sent out via e-mail before each meeting. Therefore, we would like to go as paperless, saving as many trees as possible.

It is within the scope of the Committee to have an advisory capacity on anything to do with the trees on public land. Although the various departments in town tend to act independently, this is trying to be better coordinated at the administrative level.

Tree Warden Report: A recent small storm caused some tree damage in lost limbs and two trees were lost. Most damage was done in the Woodland Garden at the library, and had to be taken care of right away, which the Highway Department did.

Project Reports:

Claypit Pond Path: Liaison/Lucia and Nancy. Mary Trudeau is the planner for this entire project. We will ask her to attend one of our meetings. The school-side half of the project will be seen to by the Middle School/High School reconstruction. The town will control the opposite side with the Ruth Ippen Walk. The path was graded and filled with oversized gravel, which needs to be replaced with smaller gravel for ease of walking. The invasive plants and broken trees are to be removed and replaced with native plants.

The Veteran's Memorial area is now complete and has had its dedication ceremony. It now has water plumbed to the area for maintenance purposes.

Some trees are identified and labeled and some are not. The goal is to identify and label all the trees.

Grove Street Playground: Liaison/Rachel. London Plane Trees were settled on as the tree of choice for the park, and fourteen of them were planted. Some of them are looking a little rough, but it is too soon to know their condition and prospects for survival. The preferred time to plant trees is in the Spring, not the Fall.

Police Station: Liaison/Mike. A plan was provided by Michael Smith for the plantings for the façade, but not for the addition that occurs behind the building. The Elms that are to be planted will create continuity with the Elms planted in the Town Hall complex across the street. Further discussion ensued about the individual trees specified. However, we generally like the plan as shown.

Garden Club: Lucia will present a tree plan to them as a project for the Club to pursue as an upgrade to the Ruth Ippen Walk. An irrigation plan must be included in the tree plan. The town has planted some trees there on Arbor Day which are larger than the usual bare root trees planted around town. It was proposed that the town plant a tree there every year to keep the sequence of planting going and to continually replenish the tree population. We will be involved in deciding which trees are appropriate for the area.

The meeting adjourned at 17:38. The next meeting is planned for 9 December 2019.

Minutes respectfully submitted by DeNee Reiton Skipper
Minutes approved,

Lucia Gates