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Minutes of

# The Shade Tree Committee

## 19 November 2018

The meeting was called to order at 16:35 by Chair Lucia Gates, and attended by, in alphabetical order: Rachel Berger, Mike Chesson, Julie Corbett, Nancy Forbes, Jennifer Parker, Laura Simmons and DeNee Reiton Skipper.

The minutes of 10 October 2018 were approved.

Lucia's article in the Belmont Citizen's Forum was discussed and appreciated by all.

Notable Trees: It is, indeed, posted on the Town's website. However, the site is not easily navigable, and finding it is difficult. Julie will check with the town's web director to see if we can request a link button to the Notable Tree List.

Town Field: A Community Preservation Act grant was approved by Town Meeting to improve the playground equipment there; the shade trees nearby need to be checked for soundness. It is hoped there will be enough money in the grant to provide additional trees to shade the area.

Alexander Underpass Project Park: While the Community Path is still under debate, the state will pay for the tunnel excavation and the *Linear Park* at Alexander Avenue. The path will use this tunnel as well as the high school students en route to school. The tunnel means that no one will not have to cross the railroad tracks at grade. The scope and nature of the plantings and trees along this linear park is, as yet, unknown.

Claypit Pond Pathway: We have seen plans from a Rhode Island landscape planner and some of this work is already being done. We should check with the planner to see if the tree plans are being followed.

McLean Property Tree Walk: The walk is on hold until the nice weather returns. The piggery will be cleaned up in the spring, but its usage is indeterminate.

Police Station Trees: The Chair if the Building Commission and the Historical District Commission would like the Shade Tree Committee to recommend that the trees be removed. The building will be renovated in the back portion and not the front, which is where the trees are. Tom will be contacted about this situation.

New Tree Planting: The lists for the new year are probably already in order. New requests may or may not be in time for this planting.

New Proposal: Julie said that Arlington has a Tree Committee which oversees the removal of public trees and replacement of trees to maintain the canopy. A similar situation occurred in Belmont when the Belmont Country Club removed town trees. They paid for new replacement trees to be planted.

The meeting adjourned at 17:30. The next meeting is 7 January 2019.

Minutes respectfully submitted by DeNee Reiton Skipper
Minutes approved,

Lucia Gates