



04.25.2022

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BELMONT, MA**

DATE: June 28, 2022
TIME: 2:47 PM

Shade Tree Committee Meeting Minutes

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 16:35 pm by Chair Lucia Gates and attended by: Jay Marcotte (Director of DPW and Acting Tree Warden), Mike Santoro (Assistant Director of DPW and Acting Tree Warden), Lucia Gates, DeNee Reiton Skipper, Mike Chesson, Eva Hoffman, Chris Arthur, Molly Aalyson, Vicki Amalfitano, ... Guests in attendance include: Vincent Stanton

There were more than 4 members attending so there was a quorum for the meeting.

The March Minutes were approved as amended.

Jay Marcotte updated the group on the Tree Donations (9 total to date) for the new Commemorative Shade Tree Donation program. 60 trees, out of 800 requests, are also presently being planted through the Town. He mentioned that Bartlett Pear Trees (non-fruiting) have been chosen to replace the dead trees in the Town Center, and dogwoods for another area. For Arbor Day, the DPW is digging a hole and setting a tree for a Girl Scout event at the Bartlett Avenue side of PQ park, at 4pm on April 29, 2022. The tree has been donated through the new Commemorative Shade Tree Donation program. Lucia Gates mentioned that to keep Belmont's designation as a "Tree City," the Town has to celebrate annually on Arbor Day.

Jay Marcotte also mentioned a tree donation request for Oxford Road, and due to the lack of a planting strip, will have to be placed elsewhere. Eva chimed in that she would like to see less asphalt and more planting strips in that area. Although the privately owned lots might be able to have a tree, there is no avenue to allow a tree donation on privately held lands as is done in other Towns. Chris Arthur asked if there were guidelines for people to plant trees in their median without having to spend \$500 and if this might help get trees planted faster especially since less than 10% of the total requests for trees was given for 2022.

Jay mentioned that they choose trees that are appropriate for a site and they call DigSafe to confirm there is no conflict with underground utilities. Some areas, with wires above, would have smaller trees.

Jay mentioned that the present Cemetery tree donating system, which just requires the cost of the tree, would be merged with the new Commemorative Shade Tree Donation program for convenience.

Jay mentioned that the Crabapple trees adjacent to Chenery Middle School, which children were scaling to get access to the roof, have been removed and will likely be replaced with crab apple bushes.

Jay mentioned that the Tree Inventory will be voted on in TM and that will give the basis for future monetary deliberations with the Town. Lucia mentioned the importance of the Tree

Inventory. TM gave the DPW 15K for plantings this year, far lower than what was requested. It is assumed that the Tree Inventory will guide future decisions about Belmont's trees.

Town Hall Campus and the Homer area will be reviewed for appropriate trees in the coming weeks. For safety, a number of evergreens must be removed from the Homer site on Concord. Royal Belmont has donated a red maple. The walk through has occurred.

The Committee voted Eva Hoffman as the new a co-chair and Christine Arthur as Secretary. DeNee Reiton Skipper had held the post for 27 years.

Lucia Gates mentioned that Bill Lovallo, of the Permanent Building Committee, plans to meet with the Shade Tree Committee following his review with the Selectman of the trees that will be placed on the HS site.

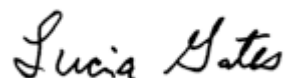
Molly Aalyson mentioned her concern with the many trees slated to be torn down in Boston on Melnea Cass BLVD. She will send out information to all members. Lucia mentioned that we can't as a group, support a political issue, but individually we could show our support, as long as we let everyone know it is not a representation of the larger group.

Vincent Stanton would like to be apprised on the planting agenda for the area along Royal Rd, near the Lions Club, the Town green adjacent to the UU Church and at the Veterans Triangle. He made an informal tree count of 80% Norway maples on the site. The WWI monument area has had an existing tree replaced with a Copper Beech. Vincent mentioned that the Community path 25% design review is in MassDots hands, that it is slated for 2026 construction and that plant selection would occur as the design is detailed. Lucia mentioned that this is on the list to be monitored.

The meeting ended at 17:35 and the next meeting will be on May 23rd, 2022 at 16:30

Minutes respectfully submitted by Christine Arthur.

Approved by Lucia Gates, the Chair
Her electronic signature as required:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lucia Gates".