



Shade Tree Committee
05.23.2022

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TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

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

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 16:30 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, Laura Simmons and Amy Andreucci. Guests in attendance include: Bill Lovallo (Chair of the HS and Middle School Permanent Building Committee) and Vincent Stanton.

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

The April Minutes were approved as amended.

Bill Lovallo spoke about the HS project, showing maps of tree locations.

- The area west of Harris Field is no longer part of the contract.
- There are 79 Trees in the contract, as approved by The Planning Board.
- Two trees have to be relocated along the access between the HS and Alexander St path.
 - Concern about losing two trees and where to relocate them.
- The Temporary parking lot will turn into a grove of London Plane Trees.
- Some trees may be planted this year at the area called the multi-modal path, which is the path to the HS side of Clay Pit Pond and which is planned to be finished this year, with the construction fence moving to the HS side of the path.
 - Concerns were brought up about planting during construction, planting in summer, water issues with clay soils, the types of trees and coordination with the Conservations Commission and Garden Clubs choices for the other side of the circular path around Clay Pit pond. Bill mentioned that they have landscape designers, arborists and contractors who are aware of all the risks, and that the trees have a two year warranty for watering until established.
- Concerns were brought up about the types of trees and preponderance of maples, which shed and require upkeep.
 - Tree pits will be dug to test if a root ball will be sitting in water.
 - Bill will send the package to Lucia for the Shade Tree Committees review of the proposal, focusing on types of trees.
 - Jay mentioned Wagon Wheel but Bill said that the public process requires a bid.

- Trees need to be extremely tolerant. Some ideas were put forth about types, including naturalized dogwoods which are being planted by the Garden Club on the other side of Clay Pit Pond, serviceberry, Princeton Elms and Maple Trees. There was concern the squirrel population was given preference for housing with the Elms.
- Karl Haaglund from the Planning Board has been outspoken about trees. Vicki will invite him to a future meeting to discuss.
- Bill mentioned that all the trees will be planted by Fall 2023.

Tree Warden Report:

- Jay Marcotte updated the group on the Tree Donations (11 total planted to date- 2 waiting until Fall) for the new Commemorative Shade Tree Donation program. Plaques are not readily available for these trees.
- The Chenery climbable trees have been removed and purple and white lilacs have been installed.
- There have been 72 trees planted this year including 10 Kousa Dogwoods, a Bradford Pear and a Zelkova.
- The Arbor Day event at PQ with the Girl Scout troop was a success, with Wagon Wheel planting an extra tree nearby.
- The Oxford Road tree was able to be planted.
- Vincent asked about possible apple trees that are taken care of by the Students, and Bill mentioned that The BHS Climate Action Committee is interested in building and maintaining a native garden.
- Jay mentioned that Lucia Gates and Catherine Chin taught Jay and his crew how to trim trees.
- HVAC equip at Town Hall Campus to be hidden by shrubs like lilacs, creeping juniper, bearberry.
- North side of Homer Building needs recommendations for plantings.
- Over 100 trees have been removed this year including an emergency tree removal near Winters Hardware.
- Lucia mentioned that all the trees on the request list have been planted.
- Copper Beach across the street from the WWI memorial at the "Town Commons" adjacent to the UU Church, has been showing dieback and rot in spots. It has been getting injections for years.

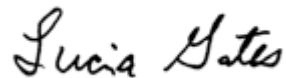
Vincent Stanton is petitioning the Selectboard to review the plantings around Royal Road and wanted to run the request by the Shade Tree Committee. He focused on 4 areas:

- The island that is formed between Royal Rd and Concord Ave. Vincent would like to see a more harmonious combination of trees at the memorial, and Jay mentioned that the entire island could be renovated, but not this year.
- Two areas along Royal Rd, one close to the train station that is noticeably filled with Norway Maples and the other further up the Road where trees have been removed leaving lots of opportunities for invasives.
- The area to the east of the Belmont Lions Club.
- Lucia said she will add those recommendations to the tree planting request list.
- He and his neighbors are forming the “Friends of the Royal Road” group to fund the changes.
- It was suggested that members of the STC take a walk through the area prior to next month’s meeting.

The meeting ended at 17:45 and the next meeting will be on June 20th, 2022 at 16:30.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Chris Arthur.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucia Gates". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Lucia" and last name "Gates" clearly legible.