



M i n u t e s o f  
T h e S h a d e T r e e  
C o m m i t t e e  
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The meeting was called to order at 16:40 by Chairman Laura Matheson Simmons and attended by, in alphabetical order: Ruth Foster, Lucia Gates, Martha Moore, Dorothy Rosales, DeNee Reiton Skipper and Sinclair Weeks.

Minutes were accepted with no objections voiced.

TREE WARDEN' REPORT: Unavailable today because the Tree Warden's Conference conflicted.

TOWN HALL PLANTINGS: An Elm tree was planted too close to the memorial Stewartia tree. Discussion ensued about which tree would probably be moved the most successfully. Sinclair is to evaluate the situation for us and review the plans for planting other trees. The electrical boxes in front of the building are now very noticeable now that the yews have been removed. Ways to soften the eye sore were discussed.

JUNIOR VARSITY PARKING PLANTING: Originally the Arborvitae or Hick's yews were proposed because they grow in a columnar fashion and would camouflage the parking lot better than the proposal for shade trees. Cone flowers, sedum and coreopsis were suggested to complete the planting. Red Thorn Barberry were also proposed to discourage cut-through traffic and trampling of the plantings.

JANE CALVIN TALK: She would prefer to give a talk at the 17 March meeting.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: The plans for the house to be built did not preserve the 3 trees already on the site. We would like to address the issue and Lucia will look into it further.

WARWICK ROAD TREE: This tree is not to be taken down merely to accommodate the poor planning on the part of the developer, who did not take the tree into account when laying out the position of the house on the site. That is not considered the town's fault nor should it bear the expense and loss of a large tree.

TREE ORDINANCE: We will work on an ordinance about tree removal. The Town of Newton has such a document and Sinclair will obtain a copy of it to use as guidance for creating our ordinance. This will be reviewed and Laura will take this up at the Selectmen's upcoming meeting.

We discussed writing a small news column for the Belmont Citizen-Herald newspaper that would be informational about our committee and its concern for the town trees.

The next meeting will be Thursday 17 February 05.

Meeting was adjourned at 17:30.

Minutes respectfully submitted  
by DeNee Reiton Skipper