

**Minutes of
The Shade Tree
Committee
11 November 2003**

The meeting was called to order at 16:45 by Chairman Laura Matheson Simmons and attended by in alphabetical order: Nancy Forbes, Nita Montero, Martha Moore, Dorothy Rosales, DeNee Reiton Skipper and Sinclair Weeks.

Minutes of 10 October 03 meeting were accepted.

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission statement of the Shade Tree Committee was reviewed by all present. **POINT 1:** We do not review contracts nor budgets of the town. **POINT 2:** We approve town planting projects, for example, deltas, streetscapes, town central areas and boulevards.

POINT 3: Basically okay, but delete "quasi-public" at end of last sentence. Do we wish to interpret these and other points broadly or narrowly is the consideration for the whole committee.

SPECIFIC PROJECTS:

POINT 1: No tree inventory of the whole town was deemed feasible. Rather an evaluation of all projects affecting town trees.

POINT 2: Working with the highway Department to maintain trees and plantings was approved in coordination with the Tree Warden on tree hearings and recommendations.

POINT 3: Deemed outdated. Revised to work with general public on care of tree plantings in tree lawn in front of an individual's property.

POINTS 4-6: Determine if we are an advisory committee or need to be involved in the process of planning and reviewing public plantings.

BELMONT SILVER MAPLE FOREST: *The Silver Maple Forest (Belmont Uplands) & The Impact of Development* report was passed out. It was prepared by Charles J. Katuska for the Belmont Conservation Commission on behalf of the Friends of Alewife Reservation and the Belmont Citizens Forum. No claim was that an individual Silver Maple tree is particularly valuable, but this forest of trees stemming from one tree is unusual. Also this forest is located in the flood plain area and helps to mitigate flooding. It links the various ponds in the area and supports wildlife, while providing a noise buffer from Route 2. The STC is not weighing in on this issue because the land is private land and not public. The ConCom is more involved with wetland territory and we shall not encroach on their charge.

Meeting was adjourned at 18:45.

The next meeting will be 10 December at Laura's house.

—Minutes respectfully submitted
by DeNee Reiton Skipper

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