



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
1 7 F e b r u a r y 2 0 0 5

The meeting was called to order at 16:45 by Chairman Laura Matheson Simmons and attended by, in alphabetical order: Nancy Forbes, Ruth Foster, Martha Moore, Dorothy Rosales, DeNee Reiton Skipper and Tom Walsh.

Minutes from 20 January 05 were read and accepted.

TREE WARDEN' REPORT: Apologies from Peter Castinino for neglecting to inform us about the Selectmen's Budget Meeting. An extra \$10,000 was allotted in the budget to compensate for the prevailing wage law, which was enacted in Massachusetts. The additional expenses of this law is why the additional money was appropriated. An additional \$10,000 was requested for our preventative maintenance budget which would allow us to be proactive and not merely reactive in treating the trees.

This past year was particularly severe in the loss of trees, but the storm damage has not been as bad thus far. The electrical workers proposed planting smaller stature street trees under electrical wires.

The removal of the Sugar Maples along Concord Ave has begun, but only the worst ones are being taken out. The others may need to be removed later. The Sugar Maple cannot tolerate the salt from the road and the Red Oaks planted there fared better. We discussed other varieties of salt tolerant trees to plant there.

JUNIOR VARSITY PARKING PLANTING: Discussion ensued about how to best spend the \$3,000 promised by the Garden Club to replant this area. Hick's yews were rejected in favor of larger trees and a paved path to control the foot traffic. The larger trees would be planted this year, with others added next year to fill-in the area. Tall grasses were suggested because there is no traffic line-of-sight issue here. Shorter stature Crab Apple trees were also proposed, but the salt is a problem for them as well.

WARWICK ROAD TREE: It was proposed to allow the developer to remove this large tree, but incurring a heavy penalty fee for doing so. The tree will probably be compromised anyway considering its "new" location in the driveway, and eventually the town would be responsible for its removal. The best solution is that building permits are not issued unless the trees are taken into account before any construction begins. Also the construction company should take measures to protect the trees from their heavy equipment.

ARBOR DAY: Winn Brook was chosen again to complete the London Plane tree planting already started there.

Jane Calvin will attend the next meeting to inform us about the town building ordinances of other nearby towns and the grants available for tree plantings.

The next meeting will be Thursday 17 March 05.

Meeting was adjourned at 17:45.

Minutes respectfully submitted
by DeNee Reiton Skipper