

Minutes of

THE SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

April 28, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 16:40 by Chairman Laura Matheson Simmons. Present were Luceille Dressler, Nancy Forbes, Matha Moore, Dorothy Rosales, Ruth Foster and new member Peter Guinness. The minutes were read and accepted.

TREE TAKEDOWN at 24 WARICK ROAD (in the driveway) was denied by the Selectmen. The developer would have given money to the town or planted several new replacement trees. However there was an active group of neighbors who disapproved of the whole project and were able to influence the selectmen to deny the removal.

A discussion ensued. It was commented that the attitude at the selectmen's meeting was rude and heavy handed. Also that each tree in town should not have to be an issue for the selectmen to have to decide.

The issue of public trees should be resolved before building or construction permits are issued. The professionals on the Shade Tree Committee and the tree warden are available to give professional arboriculture advice to the town. This was the reason the Shade Tree Committee was started years ago. The Town Engineers Office has said that this would be useful and there will be easy communication and cooperation in the future as needed to prevent problems with construction.

THE BELMONT TREE CITY USA 20 YEAR AWARD presentation at the State House, attended by Chairman Simmons and Foster, (the first chairman) was reported upon. The crystal trophy and large Tree City USA Flag was shown. Simmons was going to try to have the flag and/or trophy on display.

NEW TREE PLANTING is on its usual efficient schedule. New trees noted were 12 red maples in the parking lot behind Filenes and Valley Forge elms around the Town Hall Complex. It was noted that the Chairman Simmons had to locate the special Valley Forge elms for the architect.

ARBOR DAY will proceed with a planting at the Winn Brook School with the children, and also 2 fountain flowering cherries at Clay Pit Pond Park, as part of the continuing beautification of the area, begun three-quarters of a century ago.

PEAR TREES on Concord Avenue donated by the Garden Club. Two were run over and have to be replaced.

TAKEDOWN OF MEMORIAL TREES planted for Marlene Saindeway and Lucy Lord, and contributed by the Garden Club, were torn out by contractors at the Town Hall Complex re-landscaping. These have to be replaced. A letter will be sent to the architect. The problem is that when the Shade Tree Committee was called to view the plans it was very late and there were too many cooks.

It was commented that why was such a fuss made about one tree on Warwick Road but no one cared that so many trees, including these memorial trees, were lost at the Town Hall Complex. The Shade Tree Committee could have helped.

MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE SHADE TREE COMMITTEE. It was decided to prepare a Mission Statement and circulate it so that committees in town would be aware of the help that could be requested. It would be also carried on the town web-site.

Also discussed was carrying timely tree information of the web-site such as hemlock adelgid and dogwood anthracnose information, answers to common questions, projects past and future, historic trees and such.

Minutes respectfully submitted

by Ruth S. Foster

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