

THE SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

MINUTES: 11/19/08

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 by Chairman Laura Matheson Simmons.

Attendees: Nancy Forbes, Lucia Gates, Andy Rojas, Tom Walsh (Tree Warden).

I. Town Tree Warden Report

1. During 2008 the town removed roughly 90 diseased and damaged trees, about normal for a year.
2. The town's tree contract goes out to bid this year, the last year of the contract with Asplundh, who has had the contract for the last 12-13 years.
3. The town planted 150 trees last spring using the Carleton Nursery. This was a new nursery for us and the quality of trees we received was excellent, according to Tom.
4. Trees planted: red oaks, red maples, green ash, London Planes, Katsuras.

II. Open discussion of "good trees for street planting."

Japanese zelkova; gleditsia tricanthos (thornless honey locust); robinia (locust); American linden; elmus Americana; elmus sinensis 'Dynasty'; scarlet oak; ginko. Note: Siberian elms are no longer recommended because of their invasive roots and their attraction by elm leaf beetles.

III. Projects in Town

1. The Water pipe project is fine, per Tom.

2. During the Pleasant Street project the Mass Highway Department planted many trees in appropriate places, for example under large trees or near utilities. In March 2009, Tom plans to replant some of these trees to more appropriate locations.
3. For the Trapelo Road Corridor Project there is a crucial need for advance planning for the location of tree planting, according to Laura. The Shade Tree Committee will review the plans once utilities are included in the plans.

IV. Membership

1. Lucia Gates is rejoining the committee after a two year absence. She suggested that a letter be written to the Board of Selectmen requesting that new members be appointed.
2. The following names have been removed from membership: Lucille Dressler; Martha Moore; and Dorothy Rosales.
- 3.

- V. A letter of thanks to the anonymous donor of this year's tree planting budget line item was discussed. It was agreed that we will write the letter in the Spring when the trees are being planted.

VI. Agenda items for the next meeting:

1. Consider a name change for the committee. Nancy Forbes proposed "Belmont Tree Conservancy" which met with general acclaim.
2. Update the Shade Tree Planning Document, last updated in 10/06.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Lucia Gates