



Minutes of The Shade Tree Committee 16 January 2008

The meeting was called to order at 16:35 by Chairman Laura Matheson Simmons and attended by, in alphabetical order: Nancy Forbes, Ruth Foster, Andy Rojas, Dorothy Rosales and DeNee Reiton Skipper.

Minutes from the last meeting were amended and will be resubmitted.

Martha Moore has resigned from the committee because of time conflicts. She will be missed.

A tree inventory database was discussed in the *Citizen Forester* online publication which featured Amherst MA in the example. Their tree inventory coordinated the plot plans and shade tree locations in order to protect the existing trees in building site areas. The trees would not be overlooked when the various planning groups prepare their proposals. It was found to be a good idea to create such an inventory to avoid the destruction of trees by careless construction practices. A yearly assessment of the town trees is due at the end of the year and would be a good start toward creating this database.

TOWN HALL: The regrading of the area to avoid ice puddles will continue in the spring. These puddles are very near the handicap ramps and need to be eliminated.

SENIOR CENTER: The plans for the construction specify the protection of the old Beech Tree on the site. But it should be monitored when construction actually begins. This is the only Beech Tree left on Beech Street; it is also one of the largest trees in town.

ARBOR DAY 25 APRIL 2008: An Elm Tree beside Claypit Pond at the High School has died and Tom as requested a disease-resistant Elm be planted to replace it. No one objected.

WINTER MOTHS: The pests have been noticed during the warmer days of the winter. The seriousness of the infestation is not known as yet.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT WAVERLY WOODS: All the trees in the area were cut down to terrace the hillside for level building lots. Shade trees will be planted along the sidewalk in the tree lawn strip, and, it is claimed, they will mitigate the loss of the woods.

TRAPELO ROAD CORRIDOR: The revising of this corridor is in the works and adequate attention must be paid to protect the trees along that lengthy street. Since this is a major thoroughfare and offers two gateways to the town, it must be an agreeable visual path allowing enough room for the trees to exist and grow in the long term.

Next meeting was not determined.

Meeting was adjourned at 17:35.

Minutes respectfully submitted
by DeNee Reiton Skipper