SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday January 13, 2021 via Zoom

Chair: Nancy Chisholm Minutes: Laura Beebe

Committee members in attendance: Nancy Chisholm, Christine Paxhia, Laura Beebe, Fred Taylor, Carol Stocker, Branch Lane, Milton Tree Warden and Ex-Officio committee member.

Meeting called to order by Nancy at 7:00

Approval of minutes: December 2020. Fred will submit to Town Clerk.

Discussed updating our recommended tree list: Although technically tabled until next month, discussion about recommended trees continued. The list needs more small-to-medium trees that are hardy and resilient. Resources include Philadelphia’s tree list and “Boston Street Tree List.” Suggested trees include cherries, thornless hawthorns, American redbuds, shadblows, crabapples (plentiful in DPW yard), hornbeams, mountain ash. Kristen and Carol will reconvene and discuss at next meeting.

Tree tags: In addition to color coding the differently-sized trees in the DPW yard, the suggestion was made to attach a tag with specific planting directions (i.e., “Plant under telephone wires”).

Oak trees at Wakefield Estate: Branch followed up with Mark Smith at Wakefield Arboretum and reported that Wakefield is willing to keep the 32 oak trees meant for Kelly Field over the winter. DPW woodchipped the trees in the DPW yard and Wakefield will woodchip the oak trees as well.

Open seat on STAC Board: Laura communicated with Melinda Collins, Chair of the Select Board, who is willing to help post the vacancy. She asked for a description of the role. In the meantime, Carol recommended Tom Palmer, a knowledgeable wetland expert, who is interested. Carol will give Tom’s contact info to Nancy who will call Tom to gauge his interest.

Annual presentation to the Select Board: Nancy reported that we are still a month or two out from presenting to the Select Board.

Q & A with citizen attendee, John David Corey:

Q: When does the town plant trees?
A: It depends, but early Spring and Fall are ideal (April/May and Sept./Oct.)

A: Yes, but watering is a concern. Gator bags often appear empty.

Q: Does STAC get a list of where new trees are planted?
A: Yes, but not a perfect system. Fred suggested that DPW tell STAC about places where they take down a tree. John suggested STAC keep a robust list of locations where trees are needed. Branch will speak to Chase Berkeley and Alan Bishop.

Q: Can citizens request trees? How many requests does the Town need to fill?
A: Yes, there is a form on the town website to request a street tree.

Suggestions/ideas:
• STAC sets a goal for how many trees should be planted each year. Would have to be ~120 to hold the replacement line.
• Annual article in the Milton Times about tree planting numbers and tree care.
• Christine said she would post reminders on Milton Neighbors (on Facebook) about tree care (filling gator bags)
• Brainstormed an idea to raise money to buy and plant more trees in Milton. Based on Milton’s upcoming 360th Anniversary, STAC could organize a Milton 360 Tree Initiative. Maybe $360 sponsors a tree? Town could commit to 100 trees then donors come up with the remaining 260 x $360 = $100k. More brainstorming ahead!

Next meeting date: Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Meeting adjourned: 9:00 p.m.