

TOWN of SHELBURNE TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes of Wednesday, June 9, 2021

Members in attendance: Gail Henderson-King, David Hall, Ann Milovsoroff, Todd Warner, Susan Dunning, Kelly Moreton, Thea Platt

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM.
2. **Consider approval of minutes from May 12, 2021** – Motion was made by Kelly to approve minutes, seconded by Susan. Minutes unanimous approved.
3. **Citizen Participation (Opportunity for public comment on any Committee Business that is not included on this agenda)** – Patty Pauza provided comments to Kelly regarding the committee’s selection of trees. Kelly gave her the information to join our meeting but also let her know if she could not make it, Kelly would read her comments. Kelly read Patty Pauza’s comments:

Hi, my husband and I read your FPF post about tree donations planted around Shelburne. We live in Shelburne, and we are both curious as to why you planted honey locust trees. They are considered an invasive, non-native tree to Vermont. If you do not believe us, read this, please: <https://www.vtinvasives.org/invasive/black-locust> On the left is black locust, which is invasive non-native. To the right, under common look-alikes, is a honey locust. If you mouse over that photo, it clearly states honey locust is also non-native to the northeast. Interesting that you would choose to plant documented invasive non-native trees in our town. Would you please explain your decision?

Also, burr oaks are going to be planted in Davis Park neighborhood. I live in that neighborhood. Burr oaks produce tons of acorns. Acorns bring squirrels. Squirrels bring bobcats (and again, if you do not believe me, ask the big bobcat with a squirrel hanging out of its mouth that I just saw yesterday in my backyard). Where are the burr oaks (that grow to enormous size) going to be planted in Davis Park? I have lived in this neighborhood for more than two decades and the only location I can picture trees of that size would be in the tennis court/Scout barn area.

Thank you for addressing my questions. Patty Pauza, Davis Park neighborhood of Shelburne.

The committee discussed these comments. Non-native trees are not a critical part of tree selection. Rather, the right tree for the right place. The committee is focusing on tree

diversity especially in light of the Emerald Ash Borer and other pests and diseases that are targeting trees within our community. The availability and cost of trees is important and several of the trees recently planted in the past several years have been donated by Branch Out Burlington. The committee has two landscape architects, the town tree warden and an owner of a landscape business who provide technical expertise on tree selection and care to the committee.

As noted in the article sent by Patti Pauza, honey locust trees are non-native to Vermont, but they are not an invasive species. The committee planted honey locust trees, not black locust trees which are invasive. There are numerous trees that are non-native to Vermont that we can find in our landscapes such as Norway Maples (which are invasive but widely planted), Japanese maples, Horse chestnuts, Eastern Redbuds, and many Rhododendrons to name a few.

Oak trees do exist in throughout Shelburne and have numerous benefits as a food source for wildlife. Oak trees are large shade trees and along Davis Park and the west side of School Street, there is sufficient space for large shade trees. Several articles that the committee mentioned regarding oak trees are below.

<https://blog.nwf.org/2013/10/the-wildlife-benefits-of-acorns-and-oaks/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/31/realestate/oak-trees-why-you-should-plant.html>

Gail received a call from Laurie Burke today about several evergreen tree seedlings the Shelburne Charlotte Rotary Club would like to donate to the Town. The committee discussed where these seedlings could be temporarily placed until they become a suitable size to transplant. Dave will contact Branch Out Burlington to see if there is a space we could use temporarily. These conifers do not make good street trees and the committee thought they may be appropriate in one of the parks. Dave will contact Betsy Cieplicki about possible locations.

4. **2021 Arbor Day Tree Planting Grant** – The request for proposals/bids (RFP) for planting the two trees (Burr Oaks) will go out after the tree pruning RFP. Fall is a better time to plant trees (September 1st to October 15th) not during the heat of summer. Gail will work with Lee on getting this RFP out.
5. **Work Plan for FY 2022 (begins July 1, 2021)** – The committee discussed goals for the upcoming year. Before June 30th, pruning and removal of dead trees will be done which will open up areas for planting new trees. It is recommended to plant trees in the fall and spring. Winter is good for tree removal. Education program ideas include tree donation program, holding public meetings in person, and more public events. A tree contest was also discussed.

It is recommended to put together the work plan by seasons. Susan will put this together for our next meeting.

6. **Public Education and Outreach / Fundraising** – The committee reviewed Kelly’s materials for June and July. The Tree City USA announcement already happened. Gail is working on preparing the Arbor Day proclamation for the Select board to endorse.
7. **Shade Tree Preservation Plan** – Gail did not have anything new to report on this and it is moved to next months’ agenda.
8. **Tree Warden Report** – Three bids were received for tree work. Dave will coordinate with Lee on selecting a tree company to do this work. The Shelburne Farmers Market is looking to come back to the Parade Ground space now that the Governor lifted the pandemic emergency order on gatherings. Dave and Gail will meet with the Farmers Market director and Roslyn Graham of the Shelburne Charlotte Rotary to discuss tree protection.
9. **Other Business** – There was a suggestion to cancel the July meeting due to conflicts with several people’s schedules. After much discussion, it was decided to wait until July 7th as to whether to hold the July meeting.
10. **May 2021 Accomplishments** – Committee accomplishments for May include the planting of two memorial trees, Bay Road and School Street tree plantings, and an article in the Shelburne News about arbor day plantings.
11. **Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted in rough draft by Tod Warner, Secretary.

Approved by Shelburne Tree Committee on August 11, 2021