

## **SHADE TREE COMMITTEE**

The Shade Tree Committee met eight times in 2005.

We were level funded again this year with a tree planting budget of \$12,000.00. Tree loss was within the normal range of 80 to 90 trees due to disease, weather or normal ageing. This year a wind storm in July brought down 12 trees including a historic Yellowwood. Additionally, Winter Moth and leaf fungal diseases, because of the wet weather put a particularly difficult health burden on many trees. We worry about their future. We are exploring ways to deal with that burden. Tom Walsh, our Tree Warden has been to several conferences to learn how best to move forward.

We planted 125 new trees of different varieties with which we have had good luck. Our success rate is about 90%. We also planted 7Elms along Concord Avenue on the edge of the playing fields, another generous gift of the Belmont Garden Club. The Arbor Day Planting was the last of the London Plane Trees to be planted as part of a design plan at the Winn Brook School.

Because of unnecessary and thoughtless destruction of our shade trees by construction crews and home renovators, we had drawn up a set of GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC SHADE TREES DURING CONSTRUCTION. These were passed by the Board of Selectmen and accepted by The Shade Tree Committee with some reservation because of the leniency but will be revisited at another time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura M. Simmons, Chairman